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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

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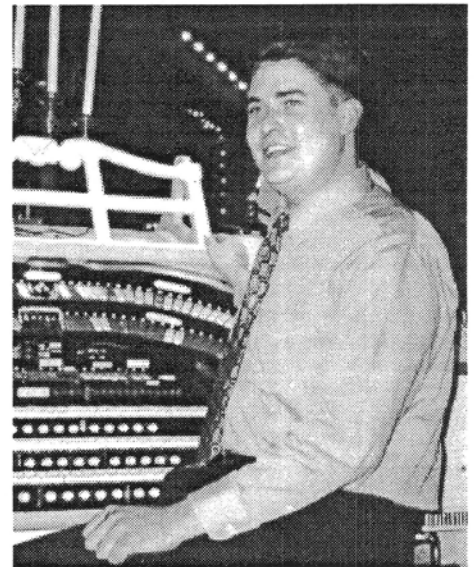
Join your PSTOS friends for

THE KENT EXPERIENCE

Saturday, May 19

*Meet at 1:00 to tour the
KENT HISTORICAL MUSEUM*

*Then visit the residence of
Jack & Mary Lou Becvar for
"Organ 'n' Scones" with
ERIC SHOEMAKER
*at the Becvar Wurlitzer**



Eric is a gifted musician, playing both jazz piano and theatre pipe organ. He was featured during the 1999 One Big Weekend extravaganza, formerly played at Tacoma Pizza & Pipes, and is currently found on the lineup at Hokum Hall. Eric is also a full time piano technician.

**Admission \$5 per person
Includes Museum,
Concert and Refreshments.**

Admission will be collected at the Becvar home.

LIMITED TO THE FIRST 60 WHO RESERVE. Only a few spots left—call now!

Please reserve at 253-852-2011, or by email at tibia61@aol.com

The museum is located in downtown Kent.

The Becvars reside at 11617 S.E. 258th in Kent.

See page 6 for driving instructions.

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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.

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**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



Prez Barbara is vacationing in Mexico. We hope she has a great trip. Stay tuned for a catch up President's Message next month.



What is a "Songalogue?"

- A musical monologue
- A musical dialogue
- A catalog of songs
- A sales gimmick

Learn about it on page 4!

PSTOS Coming Events

"THE KENT EXPERIENCE"

Kent Museum Tour followed by Eric Shoemaker program at the Becvar Wurlitzer

Just a few spots left to enjoy a tour of the Kent Museum followed by "Organ 'n' Scones" at the unusual and fun Becvar home. ERIC SHOEMAKER will be featured at the Becvar Wurlitzer. Reserve now at **253-852-2011** or email at **tibia61@aol.com** Saturday., May 19, 1:00 at the Museum

Saturday Social at the Evans residence, Kenmore

Portland's DON FEELY in concert! Music, food and fun on a Summer Saturday. Enjoy the 3/16 Wurlitzer. Limited to 65. Some folks have already reserved at **425-485-5465**, or **rjevans@aa.net** Sat., July 14, 2:00

Tedde Gibson at the Pipe Organ, plus the Famous Yelm Luncheon Buffet

Mark your calendar now for another memorable day at Yelm, with TEDDE GIBSON at the Robert Morton, and the famous buffet lunch served by the ladies at St. Columban Church. **September 15th, 1:00 p.m.**

Another great PSTOS Halloween Party

A fun event at Haller Lake Community Club. More details later. **Sunday, Oct. 21, 2:00**

Annual PSTOS Christmas Party

Another happy holiday event. Haller Lake Community Club **Sun., Dec. 2, 2:00 p.m.**

**Remember to wear
your name badge!**

OTHER

Events of Interest

Hokum Hall Final Four Weekends of the 2000-2001 Season

Vaudeville & Flickers!

Enjoy the 1915 silent film, *Alice in Wonderland*. This rare silent adaptation of the Lewis Carroll classic stars little Viola Savoy as Alice. Musical setting by Hokum W. Jeebs at the Mighty Wurlitzer. Also featuring Magician Toby Wessel, Vocalists Connie Corrick & Hugh Hastings
April 27 & 28, 8 pm

Buster Keaton in "The General" (1927)

Keaton's magnum opus. Johnnie (Buster) loves his train ("The General") and Annabelle Lee. Musical setting by Andy Crow at the Mighty Wurlitzer.
May 4 & 5, 8 pm

The Three Ragtimers

A syncopated extravaganza featuring all of the Hall's amazing keyboards and the thirty flying fingers of Hall favorites Dan Grinstead, Eric Shoemaker, and Hokum W. Jeebs.
May 11 & 12, 8 pm

Music for An Elegant Evening—Season Finale

A Spring Musicale with Andy Crow, Connie Corrick, Hugh Hastings, Lou Magor, Keith Terhune and Hokum W. Jeebs. Come as you are. We'll be in black tie. Casual elegance in the rarified atmosphere of the city's best kept secret.

May 18 & 19, 8 pm

Reservations: louis@magor.com
Hokum Hall is located at 7904 35th Avenue SW, in West Seattle. Take interstate 5 to exit 163, West Seattle Bridge. Head toward Vashon. Turn left at first lights (35th Avenue SW). Drive south about 30 blocks. Hokum Hall is just south of Kenyon and 35th Avenue SW. The #21 Metro bus from 1st Avenue stops in front of the hall.

John Giacchi to play Portland's Cleveland High School Kimball May 4th

A masterful musician from Melbourne, Australia, on tour in the U.S. Sponsored jointly by Oregon Chapter ATOS and Columbia River Organ Club.
Information: 503-665-6633.
Friday, May 4, 7 pm

Andy Crow in concert at Bellingham

Andy will present a pops concert on the Wurlitzer at the Mt. Baker Theatre in Bellingham. Questions? Phone Carol DeRoos at 360-671-0206.
Saturday, May 12, 2 pm

Andy Crow accompanies "Seven Chances" with Buster Keaton at the Everett Theatre

Tickets available at the door or by phone from the theatre box office, (425) 258-6766.
Saturday, June 9, 8 pm

Portland Scottish Rite Temple Wurlitzer damaged by earthquake

The Portland Scottish Rite Temple Wurlitzer sustained some damage during the recent earthquake, which has temporarily adversely affected its playing condition.

Shaking of the building caused damage to two of the seven wind reservoirs and has damaged some of the chests.

Minor building damage occurred and is being addressed and repaired at this time. When building repairs are completed, or at a minimum substantially underway, work will begin on organ items. John Otterstedt, organ curator, plans to fully assess quake damage, and will proceed with repair work as rapidly as reasonably possible.

Until building and organ repair work is completed Columbia River Organ Club events planned at the Scottish Rite Temple will be moved to other venues or postponed.

From information provided by John Otterstedt

From the Mailbox

I have been a member of PSTOS for some 25 years but geographic distances preclude me from attending very many meetings.

An article in the April Pipeline makes reference to the Kimball from St. Helens Theatre in Chehalis. I had the pleasure of meeting and talking to Reg Stone in Victoria many years ago when I worked in that city, at his studio and he related that he had gone and removed the organ from the theatre and had it in a trailer when he brought it across the International Border where the Customs officials required that he remove the instrument in its entirety so they could inspect it.

He installed it in a neighborhood theatre in suburban Victoria, but when the theatre changed its format to the "Kitten" theatre (they were showing sex-explicit movies) he removed it, eventually selling it to Frank Mankin in Burnaby, a suburb of Vancouver.

I also had the pleasure of visiting the Mankin residence and heard the instrument played by Frank...it was an ideal-sized instrument for a home installation. Frank was an accomplished theatre organist and I heard him accompany a silent movie...I think at the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver. I recall on this occasion my brother was talking to him, and Frank mentioned that (whatever movie he was accompanying) he hadn't seen the print before and produced the music "cold!"

Frank, I believe, was in the construction business and lived in an avant-garde residence. The instrument was in the basement, and the 32' bass was a resultant...I recall this well as it was the first time I had heard such a sound.

Frank had just remarried at that time, and his first wife had been the Thomas Organ dealer for Greater Vancouver.

And finally, my information is that at the time of Frank's passing, the organ was again moved to a residence somewhere in Alberta...and I would place money on the fact that it is in Edmonton, Alberta.

I should mention that Reg Stone played a 3-manual Conn in his studio with a pianist named Al Smith and together they produced the *Rolling Home Show* with duets from 4:00 to 6:00 pm daily on radio station CJVI, many decades ago.

Norm Schmidt, Lindell Beach, B.C.

Pages From The Past...

Women Theatre Organists of the 1920s

The "Songologue"- Laura Van Winkle's 1926 specialty at the Seattle Pantages

The Seattle Pantages Theatre claims a winsome miss as its organist, who is LAURA VAN WINKLE. She is delighting the patrons daily with novel and artistic songologues.

Her picture work is considered the best ever played by a woman in the northwest, partly due to her knowledge of good music and finished work. It no doubt excels that of many of the "superior sex." She has the energy and touch of a man, which is unusual in a woman.

Miss Van Winkle is but 24, and is very small for her age. In fact, it seems impossible that such a slip of a girl can be holding such a responsible position, but when she takes her bow after her solo, one learns that aside from her musical ability, she has what some modern writers refer to as "it." That is to say, personality, attractiveness and appeal.

Although she uses no music at the organ, she does very little improvising, playing mostly from memory—and such variety! One hears the best in everything from jazz to classics; including overtures, operas and a great deal of Chopin and Liszt, adapted to dramatic picture work.

She has a fine two-manual Robert Morton with 16 sets of pipes. The console is white, and placed on an elevator which runs from the basement to two feet above the stage. The prologue to the songologue is played as the console rises above the floor, a novelty in introduction which focuses the attention of the audience.

Her songologues are produced on a very elaborate scale. Whole stage settings are built and painted especially for them and from two to ten persons have appeared in one songologue. All this in addition to the feature picture and vaudeville bill.

Miss Van Winkle is scheduled for a long stay at the Pantages as she is gaining wider popularity with Seattleites.

From April 1926 *Melody*.

From the Capitol in Seattle to the Liberty in Ketchikan and on to Honolulu— Mary Randall did it all!

The West has boasted of its fine organists for several years, but it's just lately that women have sprung up and been included in the long list. One of the latest to command much attention is MARY RANDALL, who for 15 months has been gracing the Capitol Theatre's Kimball organ console in Seattle.

Eighteen months ago, Miss Randall emerged from the Modern School of Photoplay Music in Portland, Oregon, as a graduate. She was in search of her first job to gain actual experience. Her search was ended when she found herself in a theatre in Vancouver, Washington. After spending three months there, she came to Seattle and was immediately placed on the Capitol organ because of her marked ability. She was only a beginner when she went into the Capitol, but Mary had nerve, musical education, plus talent, and a natural ability to cue pictures. With the fire and strength of a man, what more could one want?

Mary didn't go to sleep when she got this splendid job. She worked hard, bought and learned much music, read magazines, and everything pertaining to photo-playing, and when Mary Cummeford was taken ill, Mary Randall was elevated to the top job which she has held ever since, and quite successfully.

Mary was off to Alaska June 1, where she was engaged to open the new Smith organ in the Liberty Theatre in Ketchikan. She will broadcast her solos and some special concerts four times a week.

Mary has seen a great deal of the world, but she hopes to see more of it via the pipe organ. After she completes her contract, which calls for her services for six months, Mary intends to go to Honolulu. She intends to play there and then continue elsewhere. Such an idea is great, and is broadening and will add greatly to her prestige. Mary is a splendid personality and is liked wherever she goes.

From July 1926 *Melody*.



Mary
Dobbs Tuttle
at Denver's
Isis Theatre

Pages From The Past...continued

Elsie May Look became a theatre organist at age 15!

Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Largest in the World" School of Theatre Organ in Chicago hired her as an instructor!

She was both a theatre organist and a vocalist for Radio station WLS.

A diminutive and charming lady, ELSIE MAE LOOK, is one of the reasons why Ralph Waldo Emerson's School of Theatre Organ in Chicago is the "Largest in the World." If it were not for her able assistance, those 14 unit organs would not be busy all the time and have such a waiting list.

She started playing when she was five, has been a theatre organist since she was 15 years old, has received as much education as you can cram into the limited lifetime of a slip of a girl, has been three years in Chicago playing the movie houses, has broadcast over WLS for over a year and is still doing it; she can and does sing for this same WLS radio outfit; and most important, she is the principal assistant instructor at the World's Largest Organ School: Ralph Waldo Emerson's School of Theatre Organ.

As to her age, she is older than some and a lot younger than most. She looks 18, but has the teaching ability and musical experience usually associated with three times that many years. She doesn't remember a lot about the World War, and her eyes did not open on the 19th Century. So, figure it out for yourself.

From February 1927 *Jacobs*.



This picture is signed, "To Sandy Balcom, whose praise and kindly criticism have been a great inspiration to me.... Betty Shelton, 5th Ave. Theatre, Seattle" 1928

Does anyone know whatever happened to Laura Van Winkle, to Mary Randall, to Elsie May Look, Betty Shelton or Mary Dobbs Tuttle? If so, let your editors know!

Book planned to commemorate King County's 150th birthday

PSTOS submits early T.O. info

AKCHO — Association of King County Heritage Organizations — in which PSTOS holds a membership, is developing a book to commemorate King County's 150th birthday. AKCHO members were asked to submit as many as twenty pictures or other appropriate pieces of information to be considered for inclusion in the 300-page book. Twelve chapters are planned, one of which deals with early entertainment and culture. Jackie Cedarholm, our AKCHO representative, Bob Zat and Jo Ann Evans worked on this project and chose to submit entertainment-related materials about early theatres and their organs.

Stay tuned for further reports on the progress of this book and also for its cost and availability.

Haller Lake Community Club organ access limited by dance school usage of the facility

Several members have inquired about access to the organ at Haller Lake Community Club.

The building has been leased to a dance school which uses it most of the time, which makes access for practice on the organ somewhat difficult. PSTOS does have a contractual agreement for use of the facility two Sunday afternoons each year. Additionally, required access for servicing the pipe organ is a part of the contract.

HLCC has applied for grant money to update the building to current code. That includes an elevator, handicapped access, and a men's restroom on the main floor. They are interested in PSTOS participation in a fund raiser such as a silent movie to help raise the required matching funds.

PSTOS representatives will meet with the HLCC Board during the month of May to work on all these issues.

Drive directions for "The Kent Experience"

The Kent Historical Museum is located at 855 East Smith St.

However, for easy parking, these directions help you access it from James St.

From I-5 southbound take Exit 152 to Orillia Rd. (42nd Ave. S.) It curves to the east and becomes S. 212th St. Drive across the valley on 212th and turn right at the light on 84th (becomes Central). Proceed south to the light at James street. Turn left on James and continue east about 4 blocks to Prospect Street. Turn right on Prospect and drive south 2 blocks to the museum parking lot immediately in front of you.

Northbound I-5 use Exit #147 to 272nd St. Drive east to SR-167 and turn left/north. to the Willis Rd/Hwy 516 Exit. Turn right/east and drive to Central. Turn left/north and continue to James St. Turn right/east on James and follow underlined directions above.

From I-405: Take Exit #23 southbound onto SR 167 (Valley Frwy). Take the Central Ave./84th Ave. Exit, drive south on Central to James St. (also called S.E. 240th St.), and follow directions above where underlined.

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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Kenmore, WA 98028-3453

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Whatever It Takes...Be There!



Museum to Becvar's— 11617 SE 258th St.

Retrace your route back to James St., turn right/east and drive east on James (240th) to 116th Ave. SE. Turn right/south onto 116th and continue to SE 258th St. This is a limited parking culdesac...park on 116th and take care crossing the rather busy street.

