

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 12 No. 7

July 2001

PSTOS joins with Haller Lake Community Club to bring you

Laurel & Hardy starring in the famous 1928 Silent Movie



"Big Business"

Revisit the silent movie days of the 1920s as these famous slapstick comedians try to succeed at their new big business venture! Do they? Come and laugh at their hilarious antics! With ANDY CROW at the Chapter organ providing live accompaniment for the movie, and a short concert for your afternoon enjoyment.



Sunday July 8, 2:30 PM

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

PSTOS is partnering with HLCC in sponsoring this SPECIAL BENEFIT Event. All proceeds will be added to the matching funds needed to ensure grant money for upgrading the building. Scheduled improvements include an elevator and a handicapped restroom to aid in making the building accessible to everyone.

ADMISSION • Adults \$8 • Couples \$15 • Children 15 & under \$3

Don't miss this unusual and fun afternoon!

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

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

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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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Russ & JoAnn Evans, 425-485-5465

Pipeline Online Website

Tom Blackwell, 206-784-9203

Membership – Doug Owen, 253-566-6734**Publicity & Promotion, Tacoma**

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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**

I encourage each of you to support Haller Lake Community Club's 'Special Benefit' on Sunday, July 8th. Andy Crow will accompany the 1928 Laurel & Hardy Silent Movie "Big Business." ALL IN-COME (not just profit) will help fund the addition of an elevator and handicapped accessible restroom—due to PSTOS underwriting the artist fee. Many PSTOS members will appreciate the much improved access! Member attendance is very important—please help support these wonderful and very welcome additions.

Then there's the 'Summer Social' at Russ and JoAnn Evans' home Saturday, July 14th. Space is limited so call them soon with your reservations to hear Don Feely in concert.

I know you've heard that the Ash Wednesday earthquake damaged the pipe organ at the Washington Center in Olympia. [See additional information on Page 3.] Did you know that our PSTOS members Andy Crow and Les Lehne were the primary installers of that pipe organ? The damage has been assessed and plans are underway to make repairs SOON! Washington Center is requesting financial support from anyone willing to help in this very worthy cause. Theatre organ aficionados will appreciate the value of this instrument in our community. Time is of the essence, as the repairs must be accomplished during the time the building is shut down in August for other earthquake repair. YOUR DONATION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE! Les is going through very aggressive cancer treatment and is so hopeful he will hear the organ play again.

Thank you all.

—Barbara Graham, President

**PSTOS
Coming Events****Andy Crow to accompany
Laurel & Hardy film to help
Haller Lake Community Club
fund new elevator**

Laurel & Hardy's "Big Business" will be shown with Andy at the console. He will also play a short concert. PSTOS & HLCC are partnering this event.

Sunday, July 8, 2:30 PM

**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 PM

**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 PM

**Another great PSTOS
Halloween Party**

A fun event at Haller Lake Community Club. More details later.

Sunday, Oct. 21, 2 PM

**Annual PSTOS
Christmas Party**

Another happy holiday event. Haller Lake Community Club

Sun., Dec. 2, 2 PM

**Please turn to page 6
for "Other Events
of Interest."**



From the Mailbox

Olympia's Washington Center is asking for help to fund earthquake repairs to the Wurlitzer. Your tax-deductible contribution will count! Help is needed NOW!

Dear President Graham:

I am writing to you to request financial support from Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society to help in the repair of the Wurlitzer Pipe Organ. After suffering what appeared to be merely superficial damage, a closer inspection revealed that the wrath of Mother Nature's Ash Wednesday earthquake left the organ in shambles.

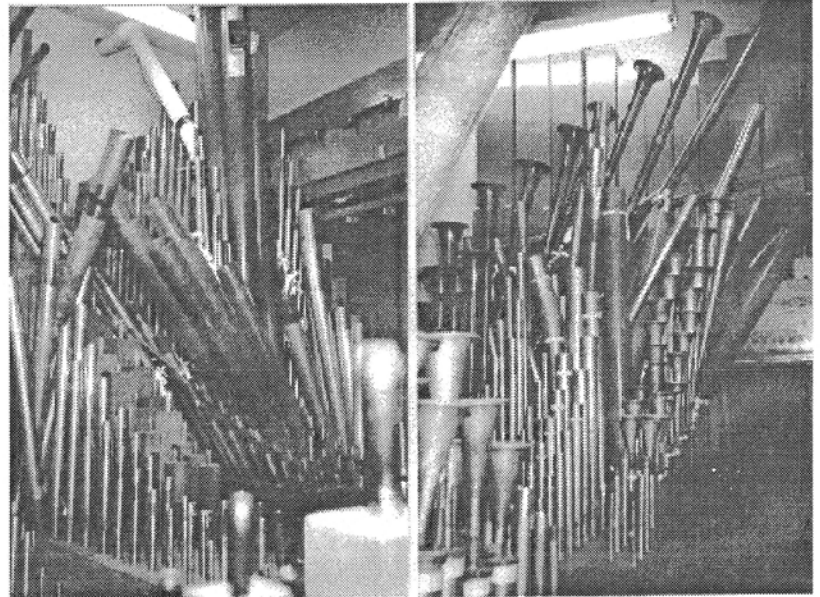
The good news is that although the instrument is completely unplayable at this time and there is considerable damage to some of the components, nothing is damaged beyond repair. We expect the instrument will be as good as new once it is repaired.

In the Main Chamber chest legs have collapsed, and split top-hat supports, cracking rack boards and pipe supports are among the damage. Pipes in some ranks—Clarinet, Open Diapason, Principal, Oboe Horn, Horn Diapason, Viol d'Orchestre and its Celeste—are bent, dented, and/or broken. The Tibia offset chest fell into the rear 5-rank manual chest. Some of the other offset chests have broken pipe supports.

In the Solo Chamber some chest rack boards and supports are cracked and broken. Pipes in some ranks—Saxophone, Brass Trumpet, Tuba Horn, Orchestral Oboe, Salicional and its Celeste—are bent, dented or broken. And the list goes on and on...

When the organ was initially installed in the Washington Center, [PSTOS member] Les Lehne volunteered thousands of hours toward the project. It was once again expected that Les would provide guidance in earthquake repairs. But it was quickly realized that a

role reversal is necessary to restore the organ—this restoration will be for Les, who was recently diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing chemo-



Just ONE view of the results of Mother Nature's wrath. Pipes toppled, bent and broken like toothpicks! The damage brought tears to those who had worked for literally thousands of hours to complete this wonderful installation.

therapy and radiation treatments. Les wants nothing greater than to hear the mighty Wurlitzer play again.

The Zollman Pipe Organ Service of Wichita, Kansas was called in to assess the damage to the organ. While it will take only about six weeks to repair, the costs are estimated at just under \$35,000. The goal of The Washington Center is to have the organ repaired as soon as possible and present a concert paying tribute to Les's tremendous investment of time, money and expertise. But it will take immediate financial support from the pipe organ community, which has rallied before in support of this unique and wonderful instrument.

The Washington Center has a window of opportunity to make these repairs happen. The Center suffered some superficial damage to the interior of the theatre and these repairs will be made during the month of August, leaving the theatre dark and therefore accessible for the repairs to the

Wurlitzer, as well.

The Washington Center Board of Directors has made a commitment to

repair the organ, but we need to raise the money to make this project happen. Zollman Pipe Organ Service must have a commitment from us by the end of June to hold the repair dates. We can probably push that slightly, but we need assurance that the financial means are in place as soon as possible.

Washington Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and therefore all contributions toward the repair of the Wurlitzer are tax deductible to the donor. Your contributions will help to assure that this beautiful organ will be properly restored and preserved for posterity!

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,
Jacalyn Tobosa, Assoc. Director
The Washington Center



The good news—the console survived intact!

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!

If you can help, please make your tax deductible contribution payable to Wash. Ctr. for the Performing Arts. In the Memo line write Wurlitzer Repair Fund. Mail to:

Attn: Jacalyn Tobosa
The Washington Center
512 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501-1330
Questions? Phone 360-753-8585

Pages From The Past...

In 1926 pretty young ladies helped publicize new Theatre Organs in Seattle theatres

WURLITZER INSTALLED AT THEATRE



Console of Giant Organ.

May Wisenor admits that though she plays the piano, the console of the Fifth Avenue Theatre's organ is much beyond her ability. Workmen began the long task of installing the giant Wurlitzer several weeks ago and the work is just about complete.

The 5th Avenue Wurlitzer was removed in 1969 and installed in the Cap'n Galley Restaurant, Redwood City, CA, where it still resides.

NEW THEATRE PUTS IN BEST OF ORGANS

**Fifth Avenue Playhouse Is
Installing Instrument From
Rudolph Wurlitzer Company.**

Paralleling in quality the music presented in the finest motion picture theatres of America will be the musical programs to be featured in the new Fifth Avenue Theatre which is soon to open in Seattle. Under the supervision of Manley Cockroft, representative of the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company, a crew of five men has been busy for the last two weeks installing a Wurlitzer Hope-Jones Unit Orchestra.

This instrument, it is said, represents the last word in design and construction and is similar to the instruments used in the foremost theatres of the country.

Great Variation in Sound.

The rumble of distant thunder, the military band or the soft, sweet music of a violin or reed instrument are all possible on the new Fifth Avenue Theatre organ keyboard at the wish of the organist.

At the console the organist has under his control 200 keys in addition to a foot pedalboard. Every key is known as a "double touch key" because it has a double usage. For instance, by a light pressure of one key a piano or violin is brought into use, while a heavier touch will bring response from the drums or brass.

Several Hundred Pipes.

Several hundred pipes ranging in size from thirty-two feet in length to six inches in length are contained in two organ lofts on each side of the proscenium of the stage. These lofts are of concrete, thirty-seven feet long and seventeen feet wide, and are so constructed as to afford full value of acoustical properties.

The Fifth Avenue Theatre organ concerts will be supplementary features of the program. In addition George Lipschultz and his orchestra will be presented.

Pages From The Past, continued...

And in 1928 yet another pretty young lady is featured

Originally published in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, February 1928 • Both articles from the Wm. Bunch Archives

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER—*The Newspaper*

Blonde Tries Giant Wurlitzer



An amateur musician as well as an embryonic movie star, Ruth Taylor—chosen for the leading role in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"—drew dulcet strains from the giant Wurlitzer being installed in the Seattle Theatre when the management invited her to inspect Seattle's vast new playhouse at Ninth Avenue and Pine.

* Although for the purpose of publicity it was stated the cost of the Wurlitzer to be more than \$100,000, records indicate that in fact the cost was about \$46,000.

The Seattle Theatre became what today is the Paramount, one of only five theatres in the state with its original theatre organ still installed and playable. During the heyday of the silent movies, Washington had approximately 250-300 theatres with pipe organs. Remaining today in addition to the Paramount is Bellingham's Mt. Baker, Mt. Vernon's Lincoln, Tacoma's Temple, and Raymond's Raymond Theatre, which lost its organ and then regained it!

MAGNIFICENT NEW THEATRE OPENS MARCH 1

TO AVOID any necessity for hastened or careless work in the construction and furnishing, West Coast Theatres have postponed the opening date of their new Seattle [now Paramount] Theatre until March.

To the casual observer, it appears that the Seattle is virtually completed and that operation could start within a few days. However, there are innumerable minute details that do not show, that will help to make the Seattle Theatre magnificent. When Herschel Stuart, general manager of the Pacific Northwest division of West Coast Theatres, saw, on a tour of inspection, that some of these details would have to be sloughed over if the theatre were to open on February 24, he ordered that the opening date be set back another week so that greater care could be taken in installing the paintings and art treasures.

The magic flying stage that raises, lowers and moves in any direction about the stage proper is completely installed and ready to operate.

The giant white and gold Wurlitzer console being installed at a cost of more than \$100,000* will be ready for operation early in the week.

PLEASE
wear your
PSTOS
Name Badge
to both July
events!

Many many thanks from your
PSTOS Board and workers!

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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

PRSR STD
Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bothell, WA
Permit #287

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



A Summer Social
with

DON FEELY

at the Evans 3/16 Wurlitzer

Enjoy music, refreshments, camaraderie!

Saturday July 14, 2:00 PM

Home of Russ & Jo Ann Evans • Kenmore

As of June 25, this event is nearly full. Please phone for
space availability: 425-485-5465 • rjevans@aa.net

**Drive Directions to
the Evans home,
6521 NE 191st St., Kenmore**

From I-5—Take EXIT #175 eastbound onto NE 145th St., drive east 1.4 mi. to Bothell/Lake City Way. Turn left/north on Bothell Way, driving around the north end of the lake 3.0 mi. to 68th NE. Turn left/north on 68th and drive 0.5 mile to NE 190th Street. Turn left/west on NE 190th, drive one block to NE 191st Street. Turn left on NE 191st, drive one block to a culdesac on your left marked Dead End, turn left. The Evans home is the first one on the left in the culdesac.

From I-405

Take EXIT #23 westbound toward Bothell. Drive 5 miles, staying on Hwy 522, to 68th NE. Turn right/north, and continue as above where underlined.

If lost, phone 425-485-5465.

OTHER
Events of Interest

**Paramount Theatre Summer
Monday Night Silent Movies
feature "Women In Film"**

La Boheme

The famous Lillian Gish stars in this
1926 movie
Monday, July 9

My Best Girl

This 1927 movie, made the year before
sound arrived, stars Mary Pickford.
Monday, July 16

IT

Clara Bow, the famous "It Girl," was
the big name in this famous 1927 movie.
Monday, July 23

The Torrent

Greta Garbo stars in this 1926
production.
Monday, July 30

**Kay McAbee in concert at the
Everett Theatre Wurlitzer**

For details phone the theatre box office,
(425) 258-6766.
Friday, July 20, 8 PM

Sick Call...

Best PSTOS wishes to Honorary Life-time Member BILL HALE, who has been ill for several weeks. Hospitalized in Vancouver, B.C., for two weeks, he is now home and slowly regaining his strength. Your thoughts, prayers and cards will be appreciated!

**In Memory
Mary Smith**

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Mary Smith, who left us June 8th after a lengthy struggle with cancer. Mary was an enthusiastic theatre organ aficionado who attended many events during her several years as a PSTOS member. We'll miss her smiling presence!