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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 19 No. 6

June 2008

A Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society

New ATOS Chapter Formed in Spokane

Centered around historic 1914 Seattle Liberty Theatre Wurlitzer now in Spokane First Nazarene Church

A brand new ATOS Chapter, Spokane First Nazarene Theatre Organ Society, was chartered just last summer, thanks to the efforts of the church organist and PSTOS member Ken Fuller. Enthusiasm for forming the new Chapter was greatly enhanced by an ongoing program of refurbishing the church's historic Wurlitzer using volunteers from the church.

The organ, originally installed in the Seattle Liberty Theatre in 1914 and now 94 years old, needed massive cleaning and repairs. Over thirty volunteers, both church members and friends, have worked with PSTOS members Clint Meadway and Russ Evans to wash pipes, install new armatures and gaskets on over 1,200 windchest magnets and install and wire in a new relay and new combination action.

Although several ranks of pipes, one regulator and windchest disappeared before the organ arrived in Spokane, those have now all been returned due to the efforts and generosity of Tom Blackwell, Carl Dodrill and Paul Fritts. All of the 20 original ranks are now at the church, and with additions over the years there are 24 ranks playing.

One of the volunteers was the contractor who built the church in 1973. Several members who helped move the organ in 1973 from the gymnasium at PLU in Tacoma also helped with the current work.

The remaining mechanical tasks are to releather the 93 notes of offset chests, install the original Echo Vox Humana, complete the installation of the 16' Clarinet and original 8' octave of the Flute and releather the stop tab pneumatics. When those tasks are completed, the entire organ will get a tonal regulation to put it in top voice.

Chapter events are listed on the Chapter website, www.sfnatos.org. Their next program is June 9 at 7:00 PM.

This is definitely an instrument to hear if you are within a couple hundred miles!

Photos courtesy of Kathy Hester.

Story provided by Clint Meadway.

Many thanks to both!



Note the size of the 25" wind pressure Tuba Mirabilis boots and shallots! Clint cleaned and polished all of the reeds and shallots. This Tuba has fire!



Clint gives Ken a tuneup



Russ Evans and Wyatt Aller prepare to hoist a pipe up the ladder. It is over 20 ft. up to the chamber.



Carol Fuller, Vicki Wintersteen and Barbara Weatherly wash and rinse pipes while Wyatt Aller supervises.



Wyatt replacing magnet cap gasket, armature and cap. The old Hope-Jones caps are prone to cipher so were replaced with newer Wurlitzer adjustables.



Digging for the dirt.



The view down the ladder as the pipes move up. An overhead electric chain hoist made the job easier.

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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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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:

Bill Keller, Treasurer, 9914 Hampshire Ct. SE,
Olympia, WA 98513-4241.

PRESIDENT'S Message

Hello everyone,

I thought I would take a moment and tell you about some great things happening this summer at the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS), the international "parent" organization of PSTOS.



ATOS Summer Youth Camp

Being held July 21-25, 2008 in Chicago and surrounding areas, the ATOS "Theatre Organ Adventure" Summer Camp provides young enthusiasts the opportunity to study and learn the art of the theatre pipe organ through lectures, master classes, and private instruction. Jonas Nordwall, Donna Parker and Jelani Eddington will be the primary instructors for this year's event, together with a number of special guests. The majority of the sessions will take place at the 4/26 Robert Morton at the Wheaton Fox Studio in Wheaton Illinois. Students will also visit several nearby theatre organ venues. The ATOS Theatre Organ Adventure is open to all participants up to 25 years of age. Registration and complete program details are available on the ATOS website or contact our ATOS chapter liaison Donna Parker at (503) 642-7009.

ATOS Summer Adult Camp

Similar to the youth camp, the ATOS Adult Camp is an opportunity to learn from the best. This year, the camp is being held in Gig Harbor at Raymond & Barbara's fabulous Wurlitzer Manor with its 4/48 Wurlitzer (www.pstos.org/instruments/wa/gig-harbor/wurlitzer-manor.htm). The dates are August 11-14, and the instructors are Charlie Balogh and Patti Simon. Students will be visiting a few other area theatre organs -- all with hands-on playing opportunities for the attendees. Registration and complete program details are available on the ATOS website or contact our ATOS chapter liaison Donna Parker at (503) 642-7009.

ATOS Annual Convention

Working with the local chapters, the ATOS organizes a convention each year showcasing the very best instruments and organists from around the world. This year, the Central Indiana Chapter eagerly invites ATOS members to the beautiful city of Indianapolis for the 53rd annual ATOS convention. The dates are Friday, July 4th, through, Tuesday, July 8th. Last year, at least 12 PSTOS members attended the convention based in New York City and a great time was had by all. Conventions are a great opportunity to hear wonderful concerts,

PSTOS Coming Events

◆ Portland's DON FEELY will inaugurate Bill Keller's exciting 5-manual Allen in August



THIS WILL BE WORTH THE DRIVE!

Don is well known among Portland theatre organ aficionados. He was a featured organist at the former Organ Grinder Pizza Restaurant, has performed for several organ conventions, is music director for St. Andrew's Church in Portland and teaches band and choir in Canby, OR. He and his wife Heidi are busy installing a 3/20 Wurlitzer in their home.

SAVE THE DATE and watch for details in the next Pipeline.

Saturday, August 9

Mechanical Music Festival in Leavenworth August 15 – 17

Band organs, street organs, music boxes, lots of fun stuff! Mark your calendar and watch these pages for more details. Sponsored by AMICA and COAA (Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors Assn., Carousel Organ Assn. of America.)

see beautiful theatres, attend excellent technical seminars and enjoy lots of good fellowship with other theatre organ lovers. Registration and complete convention artist and venue information is available on the ATOS website.

For ATOS membership information and more details about the three programs described above, just visit the ATOS website: www.atos.org.

Other NW Theatre Organ Events

◆ Paramount Theatre *Silent Movie Mondays June Series to be a Douglas Fairbanks Festival*

All movies accompanied by Dennis James at the Paramount's original 4/21 Wurlitzer

Monday, June 2, 7PM

When the Clouds Roll By (1919)

Monday, June 9, 7PM

Mark of Zorro (1920)

Monday, June 16, 7PM

Robin Hood (1922)

Monday, June 23, 7PM

The Gaucho (1927)

◆ 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

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

◆ Bellingham's Mt Baker Theatre

The Mt. Baker is closed for a few months for upgrading the heating and air conditioning system. Watch this column for reopening date and events.

From The MAILBOX

Dear Mr. Evans,

I went to work for Balcom and Vaughn Pipe Organs a short time before Sandy Balcom turned the shop over to Bill Bunch. Bill was a go-getter and kept the orders coming in. When Bill retired, John Moir took over until the shop closed. I was with the company 27 years and was still working part time as late as 1991.

I am sending to you a box containing a partially completed model pipe organ. I don't remember how I acquired it but we discovered it last year when we were packing to move from our home of 45 years. I am passing it on to you in hopes someone in your organization would be interested in completing it. I have also included one each of all the parts I used at my bench in the chest department. I worked on the main chests — great and swell — doing all the drilling, assembling, wiring and punching leather for pouches and valves.

I read in one of your recent newsletters about your organization acquiring a pipe organ from Anacortes. An acquaintance of ours, Bob Weiland, was in and out of the shop. Bob built his own organ in his home in Anacortes. I don't know what his wife did with the organ after his demise, could the organ possibly have come from her?

Sincerely,

Esther Hutchins, Monroe, WA

You, too, can compete in the Haller Lake Arts Council annual chili cookoff June 22nd!

PSTOS organists will entertain

Originally begun by PSTOS, *Chili Palooza* has become an annual Haller Lake community event. It's a competitive cook-off and just 30 tables are available for chili cooks. Registrations will be accepted until June 8, or until all spaces are filled.

Download the forms from the website below and be a prize-winning chili cook! <http://www.hallerlake.info/chilipalooza.html>

Clint Meadway and Jo Ann Evans will entertain at the PSTOS Wurlitzer from 12:00 noon to 12:45 and for short periods between events throughout the afternoon.

For an entertainment list, check the above website.

FOR SALE Organ Stuff

FOR SALE: Zepher Electric Pipe Organ Blower. Two stages, 1HP 110V single phase motor. The motor and fan housing mount on two steel rails. \$50. Contact Brian Tate at (425) 881-4401 or bftate1@yahoo.com

Andy's Still Crowing at 75!

Come to Kenyon Hall to celebrate Andy Crow's 75th birthday the first weekend of June.

Andy will hop from keyboard to keyboard to dazzle us with his crowness as we honor this remarkable gentleman's extraordinary life. To help Andy celebrate, a wide variety of Kenyon Hall classic Vaudeville acts will share the stage, resulting in a different show each evening. There'll be birthday cake, root beer floats, and fun galore.

Don't miss this special event!

Shows are Friday, June 6, at 8 PM,

Saturday, June 7, at 8 PM, and Sunday, June 8, at 5 PM



Table seats are \$14. Row seats are \$12 general and \$10 seniors/students. With a reservation, row seats are only \$10 general and \$8 seniors and students. To reserve, e-mail kenyonhall@earthlink.net, or call the hall at (206) 937-3613.

Kenyon Hall is located at 7904 35th Avenue S.W., in good old West Seattle.



Pages From The Past..

A piece of Americana

Reprinted from *The Portland Oregonian*, April 25, 1984

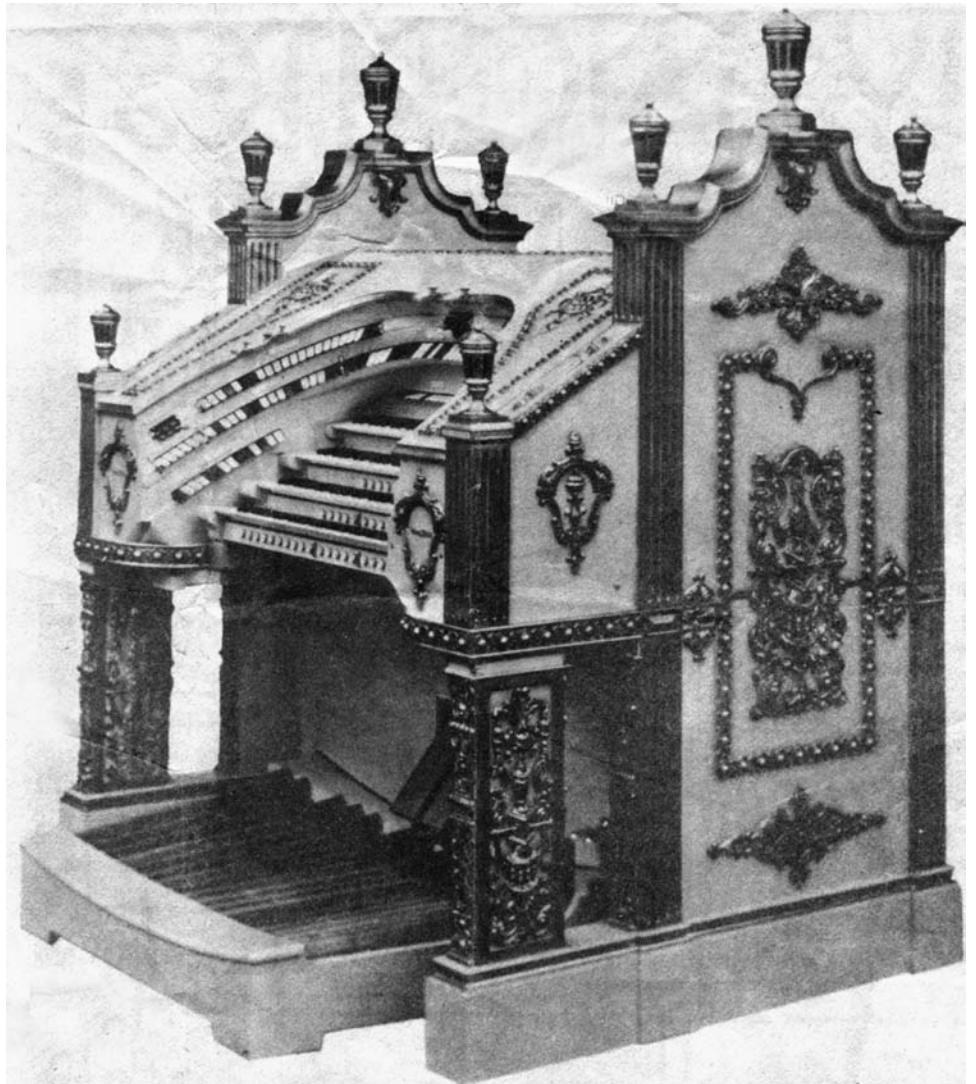
The theatre pipe organ was a unique entertainment phenomenon that was born and died in this century. Now it's being resurrected, thanks to the efforts of 6,000 chartered enthusiasts in the U.S. and around the world.

The American Theatre Organ Society, which boasts 104 members in Oregon and southwest Washington, has been involved in promoting the history, preservation and understanding of these unique instruments since 1963. More importantly, the group is getting young people involved in their projects to show them that this is a viable and interesting modern keyboard instrument—not an antique.

The group locally sponsors a bunch of concerts each year around town. The next is scheduled for the evening of April 29 in Benson High School's Auditorium. The guest artist will be organist extraordinaire Kurt Von Schakel, a 25-year-old virtuoso who carries letters of recommendation from the likes of Vladimir Horowitz and Leonard Bernstein.

Along with these special programs, there are theatre organs that are beginning to reappear on the Portland movie scene. The Sherwood Oriental and Roseway theatres have both re-installed pipe organs that are used as a regular feature in their programming.

Appealing to an even more diverse audience locally are the installations located in two pizza parlors (Uncle Milt's in Vancouver and the Organ Grinder on 82nd). Benson High's Kimball organ (lovingly restored a few years back by ATOS members) has been used since the late 1930s for special occasions and for school functions. A lovely pipe organ graces the premises of the Scottish Rite Temple



This mighty Wurlitzer once graced the Paramount Theatre in Portland. It's now the property of the Organ Grinder Corp. [1984]



ATOS members rebuilding the console of the Kimball organ at Benson High School

downtown. If you're into roller skating, you can go to Oaks Park with your honey and skate to the music of one of the few remaining roller-rink theatre organ installations in the country. It certainly is a more thrilling experience than skating to canned disco music!

According to Terry Robson, a spokesman for the local ATOS chapter, the hey-day of the theatre organ coincided with the era of silent films—roughly from 1908 to 1928. Originally, the theatre organ was not developed as a concert instrument, said Robson. It was designed to substitute for an orchestra for the accompaniment of silent movies, live stage presentations and the like.

The organists of this time did not play concerts during the silent film era. They played overtures, interludes and the score for the film being shown. In a sense, the theatre organist's solo performance was one of the "acts" in the shows of that time, as indicated in the old programs from some of Portland's movie palaces.

Pages From The Past...continued

So you want to go to the movies? Here's what was playing in Portland on July 14, 1935!

Hollywood
2 BIG FEATURES

Starts Claudette COLBERT in "PRIVATE WORLDS" Charles Boyer Joan Bennett	Today George Raft Ben Bernie in "STOLEN HARMONY" Also BETTY BOOP
---	---

SANDY BLVD. & 41ST - GA. 1737

BAGDAD
37th and THEATRE Hawthorne

Sunday and Monday Only
Gloria Stuart, John Beal in
"LADDIE"
Plus: Evelyn Laye, Fred Kortner
"EVENSONG"

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—Plus—
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Adults 20c Children 10c

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OF ALL THE WORLD!
THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH

PLAYHOUSE
2 HITS Always 10c

Wynne Gibson Stuart Erwin "The Crime of the Century"	Jack Holt Mona Barrie "I'll Fix It"
--	---

RIVOLI ANYTIME 10c
Park & Wash.

Sun.—Mon.—Tues.
MAE WEST in
"SHE DONE HIM WRONG"
—Also—
"ONE-WAY PASSAGE"
With William Powell—Ray Francis

GRAEGER'S EGYPTIAN
TR 2744--Union & Russell--TR 2744

Sunday—Monday—Tuesday
John Beal and Gloria Stuart in
Gene Stratton Porter's Story
"LADDIE"
Plus
James Dunn and all-star cast
in
"George White's 1935 Scandals"
Also a POPEYE CARTOON

ALAMEDA
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Wallace Beery, Robert Young in
"West Point of the Air"
Plus Fay Wray: "WHITE LIES"
N. E. 30TH and ALBERTA

"Mississippi" SUN. MON. TUE.
with BING CROSBY and W. C. FIELDS

Colonial
ALBINA and KILLINGSWORTH

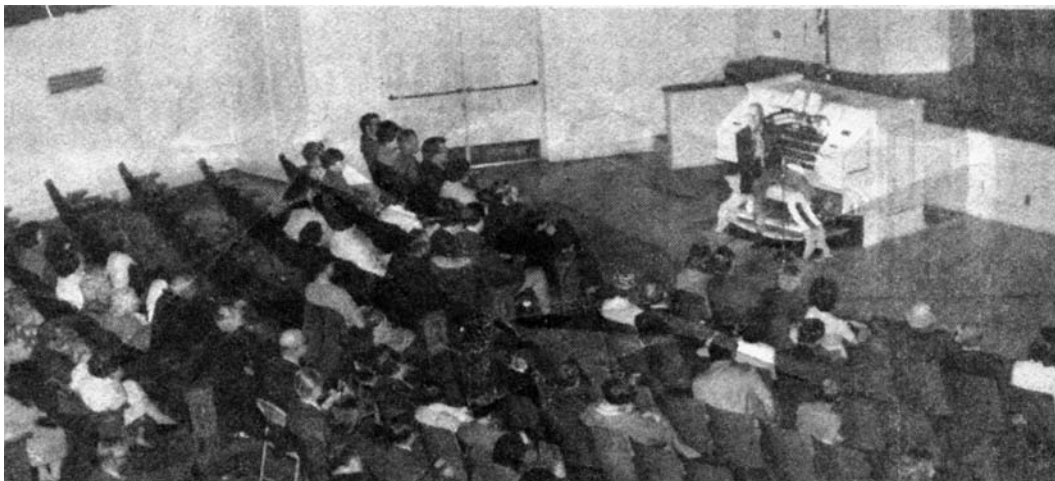
JOHN HAMRICKS **Ophreum**
2 the Features

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SINCE "ROBERTA"
HOORAY FOR LOVE
ANN SOTHERN
GENE RAYMOND
ALSO
THE SCREEN'S
DAFFIEST DETECTIVES
"WHEELER & WOOLSEY"
BETTY GRABLE and EVELYN BRENT
25c TILL 1PM

MUSIC BOX All Seats 25c
JOHN HAMRICKS
JAMES CAGNEY in
G-MEN
2nd Shift! May Robson in "Strangers All"

CAPITOL 15c All 6 P.M.
MORRISON & 4th Avenue

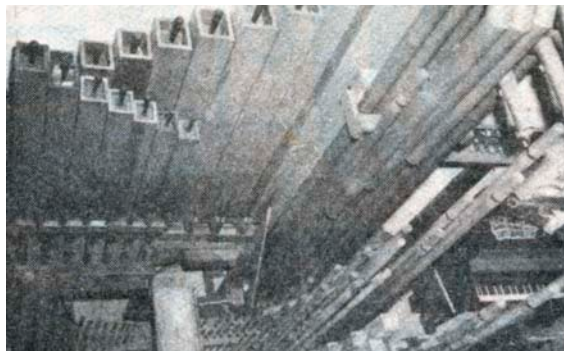
STARTS TODAY
Jeanette MacDonald
NELSON EDDY
in VICTOR HERBERT'S
"NAUGHTY MARIETTA"
M-G-M Musical Triumph!
PLUS
DE LUXE STAGE SHOW
FEATURING
"THE JOY TRIO"



Gaylord Carter plays a concert at Benson High School.

It was these short interludes, believes Robson, that were instrumental in creating a love for theatre organ music which survived in the memories of the people who grew up in the 1920s and the Depression.

Now this piece of Americana is being discovered by a new generation in concerts across America. People are restoring these monolithic instruments and playing them in performing arts centers throughout the country. The Seattle Symphony, in fact, will be sponsoring a series of silent films later this year [1984] with organ accompaniment.



Some of the pipes of Benson High School's Kimball

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The Kimball theatre organ which was located in Benson High School for many years has been removed and re-installed in Portland's Cleveland High School.

The Portland Paramount Wurlitzer was purchased by the Organ Grinder owners and became the nucleus of the Denver Organ Grinder restaurant. Upon closing the Denver restaurant, the organ was sold to a local party and subsequently components were re-sold to many organ enthusiasts.

Busy “Publix Team” putting in many volunteer hours to ready Paramount’s historic Wurlitzer for 2010 ATOS Convention

Here’s the May report...

The Paramount Theatre’s Operations staff did an absolutely beautiful job with the plaster repairs and repainting of the String chamber walls. They washed down all the walls with TSP, removed and replaced all the plaster on the East wall and painted with a hard, oil-base enamel. They even matched the lovely (not!) yellow color perfectly, carefully preserving the historic graffiti we wanted to keep.

Bob Otey did a beautiful job releathering the three regulators and these are now reinstalled in the chamber. Bob’s work was paid for by the ATOS grant received last summer.

Russ Evans did a fantastic job, spending dozens of hours re-leathering two swell motors, three offset chests and 14 shutter bumpers. He also restored the original chest

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors

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manifold and wind trunks. Way to go Russ!

Remaining work to be done includes re-installing all the rebuilt parts, re-winding, wiring and tuning in time for the June 2 movie.



Larry Mayer & Phil Hargiss reinstall a swell motor, expertly rebuilt by Russ Evans



ABOVE: Closeup showing soot collected during Seattle's coal burning era.



LEFT: Russ Evans prepares to disassemble, clean, rebuild, releather and shellac a “J” trunk which connects a regulator to the chest manifold directly above the regulator.



Bob Zat mans the vacuum following plaster repairs in the chamber



While the swell shades are removed for bearing lubrication, Larry Mayer takes the opportunity to remove extra plaster from the inside of the decorative grilles to hopefully improve tonal egress