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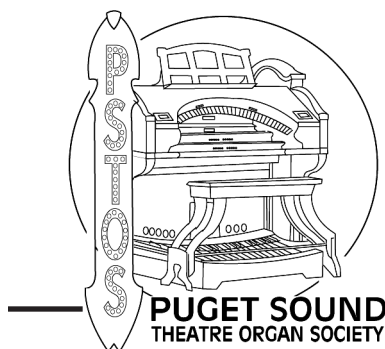
PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

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 20 No. 5

May 2009

A Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society



Coming in June – Annual Benefit for the Paramount Wurlitzer Restoration Fund

MUSICA CURIOSA

A Presentation of Amazing Musical Instruments of the Past, the Present, and possibly the Future!

WITH DENNIS JAMES and DAVID PECKHAM

In a Duo Program Featuring the Paramount's Wurlitzer and Unique Musica Curiosa Instruments

THE MUSICA CURIOSA COLLECTION of over fifty music instruments emphasizes the vitality of conservation and modern-day reuse of historical cultural artifacts plus the celebration of dynamic new musical inventions. The collection includes devices that represent both failure and success during the last four centuries of music instrument development. Examples range from the Medieval psalter to Don Buchla's late 20th century inventions, the Lightning and Thunder. Also included are forgotten instruments now being subject to current international revival, such as Benjamin Franklin's 1761 Glass Armonica and the Theremin, the 1919 Soviet electronic instrument played by waving one's hands in the air. There are also instruments that have not yet been placed within the confines of either success or failure, such as the Baschet Brothers' Cristal (the 1950s avant-garde glass & steel sound sculpture from Paris, France) and Leopold Rollig's Orphika (the 1815 Viennese miniature fortepiano).

Sunday, June 28, 7 PM

Paramount Theatre

9th & Pine, Seattle

\$20 General Admission

**Proceeds will benefit the
Paramount Theatre's
MIGHTY WURLITZER
RESTORATION FUND**

**All donations over \$20
are fully tax deductible.**



DENNIS JAMES has made a performing career out of the delight in discovery by taking up obscure and challenging musical instruments that have fallen into disuse but for which there remains a viable repertoire. Emerging as a "curious musician with curious instruments" on the international scene in 1991 with over fifty music festival appearances that year, he has since developed a concert, recording, and lecture career that keeps him traveling over two-thirds of the year. He is a graduate of Indiana University with both bachelors and masters degrees in organ performance. He currently has seven solo record albums and three solo compact disc issues, plus has many appearances on various other recording artists' projects to his credit.



DAVID PECKHAM has been resident organist at the Clemens Center in Elmira, New York since its opening. Hearing theatre organ music even before he was born, David was fortunate to grow up in a home packed with a modest theatre organ and all sorts of automatic musical instruments. David's formal musical training has all been in the classical realm. His unique programs are the result of his constant search for new music to play on the theatre organ, whether a recent pop chart or an old forgotten melody. David balances his weekly church position with the family pipe organ service business and a busy concert schedule, and we are delighted to welcome him to the Paramount as part of Musica Curiosa.

**Avoid the line!
Order tickets now
from:**

**Tom Blackwell
Musica Curiosa Tickets
9717 Dayton Ave N.
Seattle, WA 98103**

Please make your check payable to "Seattle Theatre Group" and include "Organ Restoration Fund" on the memo/comments line of your check.

You **MUST** include a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to receive your tickets in advance. Orders received after June 20 will be held for pickup at the door.

For questions or large group sales, contact Tom Blackwell at (206) 784-9203, leave message or e-mail tom@pstos.org

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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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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

When airfares dropped in January, it seemed appropriate to book a trip to visit my dad in Las Vegas. At about this same time, Dick and Linda Wilcox extended an invitation to visit the Phil Maloof residence and see his magnificent collection of theatre organs.

At about the same time, William Rowland from Broken Arrow, OK, had mentioned on the TheatreOrgans-L list that he was coming to Las Vegas, and the Wilcoxes extended an invitation to him, too. They were coming west because Bill's daughter had been hired by Fitzgerald's Casino to play Celtic fiddle during St. Patrick's Day to wander around the restaurant and entertain.

Bill and I exchanged email and found that he had scheduled a Wednesday visit to Mr. Maloof's and I had scheduled a Monday, which left Tuesday free for us to get together. Since my dad has a piano, Bill came to the house and the three of us took turns playing ragtime music, eating grilled steaks, and telling stories. It was a marvelous evening of fun.

My Monday visit was one of stunned awe.



Mr. Maloof has the Chicago Stadium Barton console, a 6-manual capsule of keyboards, stopkeys, pedals and expression shoes, the 5-manual Roxy Kimball, the last 3-manual Barton ever built, the 4-manual Wiltern Kimball, and a very pretty 2-manual Wurlitzer whose pedigree I do not know. The Bartons are functional in one room and the Roxy is functional in a separate room separated by glass doors. The Wiltern Kimball is presently having a Uniflex 3000 relay system installed and will play side by side with the Roxy organ.

On top of the Roxy Kimball and the Chicago Barton are 65" flatscreen televisions which display every key you play, including second touch. That feature itself put on quite a show.

Monday was just a complete overload for me. Ken Double was right, you can't read the top two rows of stopkeys. It is astounding to see the unification. You want loud? You want soft? When one selects stops conservatively, it is amazing the music one could make. And yes, I used all six manuals. They are not as dif-

PSTOS Coming Events

◆ MUSICA CURIOSA featuring DENNIS JAMES and DAVID PECKHAM

An entertaining show combining the Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer with a variety of unique and interesting musical instruments from the Musica Curiosa collection. A benefit for the Wurlitzer restoration. Put it on your calendar now!

Please note time change
from 2 PM to 7 PM

Sunday, June 28, 7 PM

◆ DONNA PARKER will entertain at a SUMMER WURLITZER PARTY



Another fun summer getaway with lots of music on the 3/18 Wurlitzer at the Kenmore home of Russ & Jo Ann Evans. Enjoy an afternoon of your favorite music on

the Wurlitzer and munchies on the patio! Mark your calendar now. Limited to 60. Early reservations at 425-485-5465, or rj.evans@verizon.net

Sunday, July 19, 2 PM

◆ SIMON GLEDHILL at Gig Harbor's Wurlitzer Manor

Known worldwide to theatre organ fans, this will be Simon's first visit to our area. Don't miss it!

Sunday, November 22

ficult to play as one would think.

By Wednesday, my mind was more focused – and my dad was in attendance.

Bill asked me to video him playing the Barton which was a great deal of fun. Bill put on quite a show! My dad sat at the console and poured out a few tunes that were quite impressive – I hand-registered for him and he said later that he had the time of his life. I took over the Barton and Bill played the Roxy, then we switched.

Bill (Barton) and I (Kimball) played "That's Entertainment" at the same time. Next time we will open the doors between the rooms!

My trip to Las Vegas and visits with Dick and Linda culminated with a spontaneous dinner with Ken Double. One thing can be said – getting together with friends means everything for those who love theatre organ.

Dave Luttinen

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

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

Mt. Baker Theatre Organ Society presents Jeff Fox accompanying the silent movie "Nosferatu" on the Wurlitzer

Sunday, May 3rd 3:00 pm.

◆ Spokane's First Nazarene Theatre Organ Society

Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month and feature the historic and newly refurbished 1914 Seattle Liberty Theatre Wurlitzer. For up to the minute news and events calendar, go to www.sfnatos.org

◆ Paramount Theatre *Silent Movie Mondays June Series*

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

Monday, June 8, 7PM

Flesh and the Devil, with Greta Garbo and John Gilbert

Monday, June 15, 7PM

Romola, with Lillian and Dorothy Gish with John Gilbert

Monday, June 22, 7PM

Cecil B. DeMille's *The Godless Girl*

Monday, June 29, 7PM

Seventh Heaven, with Janet Gaynor

◆ City Museum, Wenatchee, Silent Film program

Accompanied by Dennis James at the Wurlitzer

Sunday, June 7, 8 PM

The Kid, with Charlie Chaplin

Volunteers Needed for Archiving Project

"Total Immersion" in Theatre Organ History!

Take note if you're interested in the history of theatre organs in the Puget Sound region. Jamie Snell is organizing a project to archive all issues of the *Pipeline* back to the beginning, and Russ Evans's treasure trove of theatre-organ-related documents going back several decades. (You've seen samples in the "Pages From the Past" section of the *Pipeline*.)

The plan is to scan these priceless documents and put them on a digital disk that will preserve them for all time, and to post some of this material on the website.

In addition we will create an index to make it efficient to find items related to particular topics, instruments, people, places, etc.

Although this project involves some grunt work, the people involved are bound to have a lot of fun, learn some interesting history, and make a contribution that will be valued by future generations of theatre organ fans.

If you'd like to help out, contact Jamie at **206-525-4521** or jsnell@acm.org.

FREE ! Paramount Broadway Tickets!

Did you know that many of your fellow PSTOS members have seen Broadway shows, concerts and comedy at the Paramount Theatre for FREE over the last year as part of the theatre's TAP ticket program? TAP is the Paramount's "Theatre Access Program," allowing non-profit partners such as PSTOS a chance to attend programs in recognition of their significant contribution to the theatre. In the case of PSTOS, this is because of our extensive involvement in maintaining and restoring the theatre's Wurlitzer pipe organ. All PSTOS members benefit!

Notification of free ticket availability is sent out to the "PSTOS Discuss" e-mail list.

If you are not yet a member of this list, why not join 70 of your fellow PSTOS members and sign up? It's a free membership benefit! To join, just send a request to Tom Blackwell at tom@pstos.org



The long and fascinating life of beloved organist Doris Cooley will be celebrated May 9th

Born and raised in Tacoma, Doris began playing piano at the age of nine. A couple of years later she came face to face with a pipe organ and began lessons. During her junior and senior years in high school she played for silent pictures at the Park Theatre in Tacoma, her first professional job.

A few years later, Doris' then-fiancé Bill, was called to China on behalf of his employer, RCA. It was two long years before she could join him, but she made good use of this time playing for a Tacoma radio station. Doris joined Bill in Tokyo where, in 1932, they were married.

Back in the U.S., Doris played her first Hammond in 1950 at a wedding. A charter member of the Seattle Hammond Organ Society, she was their most popular and in-demand performer ever.

Not only was she an outstanding musician, but an entertainer as well. Her 'fan club' was large, and whether playing for an area organ club, or on the stage of a

local night spot, she would pack the house. Her style was upbeat and rhythmic. She played the kind of music that caused folks to tap their toes.

Doris left us January 1st at age 97. Her two daughters, Irveta Johnson and Toni Bies, and son Gilbert Cooley, will host a special Open House and Celebration of Life as a tribute to their mother. It will be held from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM Saturday, May 9th, at the Nile Golf & Country Club. Everyone is welcome!

Directions:

From I-5 N&S take exit #177 to 244th SW /205th St. Drive westbound for .3 mile to the golf course entrance on your right. Look for Nile Temple entrance which will take you into the grounds of the golf course and clubhouse, 6601 244th St SW, Mountlake Terrace.



This is the Souvenir Program for the 1955 dedication of "The Largest Roller Rink Organ In the United States!"

The Oaks Park Wurlitzer was originally installed in Portland's Broadway Theatre. Wurlitzer's Opus 1380, it was shipped July 3, 1926 as a 4-manual Special. It was moved to the roller rink in 1955.

For the full story of the rink and the organ, go to this link on the PSTOS website:

<http://www.pstos.org/instruments/or/portland/oakspark.htm>

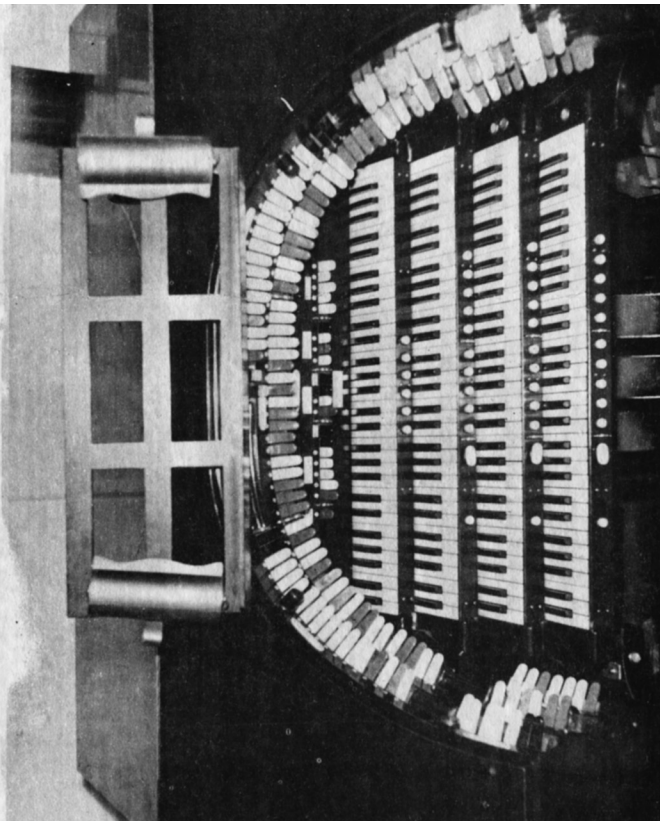
Or just go to [PSTOS.org](http://www.pstos.org), then click on Northwest Instruments, Public Venues, Oregon, Portland,

Oaks Park Roller Rink.

Oaks Park Rink is the only remaining rink with a regularly played pipe organ in the U.S.!

Souvenir Program

DEDICATION OF THE LARGEST ROLLER RINK ORGAN IN THE UNITED STATES...



Thursday, March 24, 1955, at 8:30 P.M.

... IN THE LARGEST ROLLER RINK IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

OAKS PARK RINK

Portland 2, Oregon

APRIL 30 - MAY 1

★ **OAKS PARK OPENS.** Fireworks Displays! Free Admission! Free Picnic Area! Eighteen Giant Rides!

MANY SUMMERTIME EVENTS AT THE OAKS...

★ **PATRICIA LEE MODELS POSING FOR YOUR CAMERA!**

★ **WATER SKIING!**

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★ **FIREWORKS!**

★ **STAGE SHOWS**

★ **DANCE PAVILION... AND EXCITING ACTIVITIES!**

For Group Picnic Information Call

Empire 5722

ALWAYS FREE ADMISSION TO OAKS PARK.

18 Giant Rides... The Scooter, The Whip, Miniature Train, Boogie-Woogie, Miniature Boats, Roll-O-Plane, Merry-Go-Round, Whirlwind, Ferris Wheel, Kiddie Planes, Baby Whip, Baby Wheel, Sky Fighter, Looper, Rock-O-Plane, Caterpillar, Street Car, Midget Racer... and the **LARGEST KIDDLIELAND IN THE NORTHWEST!**

FREE SKATING INSTRUCTION

Each Monday evening from 6:30 to 7:30, Dale and Jeanne Pritchard, professional instructors at Oaks Rink, give free lessons in skating fundamentals. Teaches you forward, backward and fundamental dance. Ask Dale and Jeanne about other skating class schedules!

PUBLIC SKATING SESSIONS:

EVERY AFTERNOON 1:00 to 4:00

EVENING: 7:30 to 10:30 WEEKDAYS

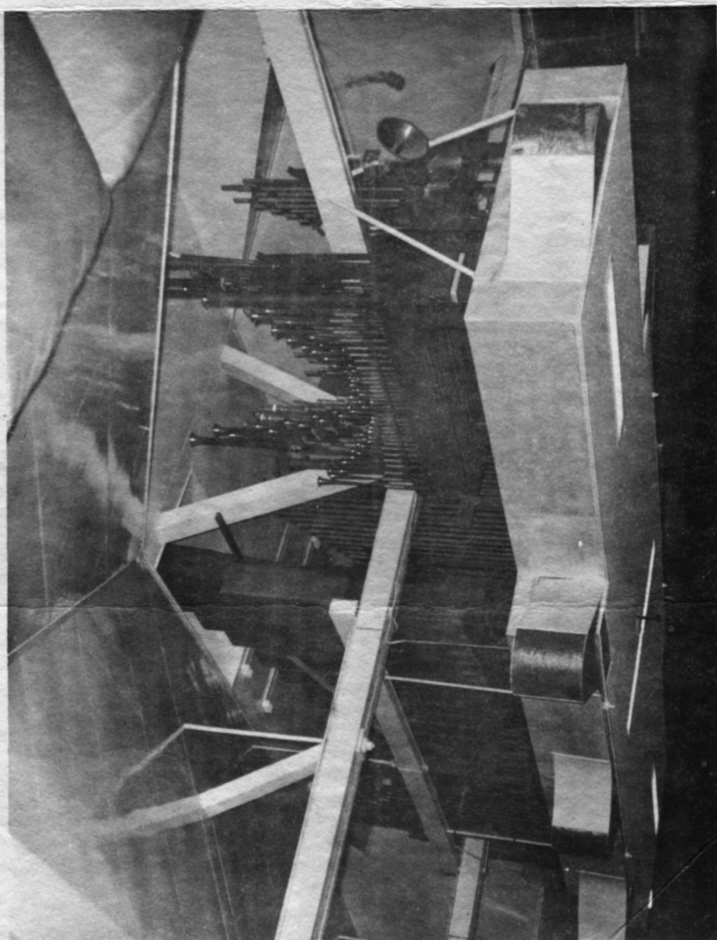
7:30 to 12:00 FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS (DOUBLE SESSIONS)

SUNDAY: 1:00 to 4:00 — 3:30 to 7:00 — 6:30 to 10:30

You'll have fun at the Oaks Amusement Park and Roller Skating Rink. Continuous Organ Music . . . played exclusively for your skating pleasure by the West's most famous organists. The Oaks is open each afternoon and evening (seven days a week) and is the largest roller rink in the Northwest.

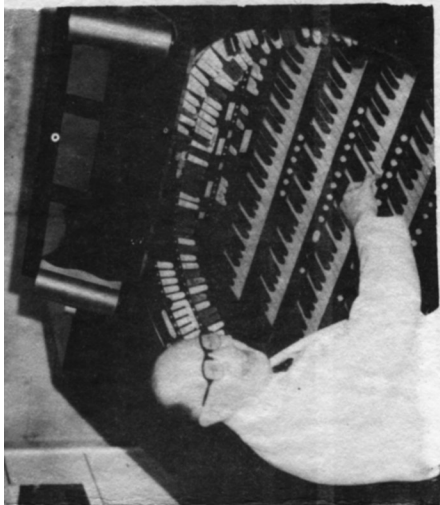
The huge new **Wurlitzer Organ** was installed as a gift to skaters . . . everywhere . . . from the management of Oaks Rink during their 50th Anniversary Year.

The Oaks new organ was just recently moved from the Broadway Theater, where it has been played by outstanding stage, screen and television artists. Henceforth, the beautiful music coming from the pipes of this mammoth organ will be "the best music in town"



The organ loft, showing the largest organ in the United States, raised above the center of the huge rink floor.

The new Oaks Rink Organ has 1242 pipes, 2525 magnets, 4700 pouches, and 500,000 feet of wire.



Buss McClelland
... the featured organist
at the Oaks Rink . . . is na-
tionally known as an or-
ganist and recording star.

For your information . . . here is why our new organ is the largest rink organ in the United States . . .

This huge organ has 18 complete sets of pipes, namely: Dulciana, Vox Humana, Flute, Viol d'Orchestre, Clarinet, Viol Celeste, Horn Diapason, Tuba Horn, Diaphonic Diapason, String Celeste, Saxophone, String, Kinura Orchestral Oboe, Tibia Clauso, Trumpet, Oboe Horn, and Quintadena. There are 175 tablets on the console with 45 piston buttons . . . for quick changes to pre-set tone combinations. The Bell Section is composed of Marimba, Harp, Xylophone, Glockenspiel, Orchestra Bells, Sleigh Bells, Chrysolyt, and Cathedral Chimes. The Percussion Section is Snare Drum, Tambourine, Castanets, Chinese Block, Sand Block, Bass Drum, Kettle Drum, Tom Tom, Crash Cymbal, Cymbals, Triangle, Bird Whistle, Boat Whistle, Horse's Trot, Fire Bell, Auto Horn, Telephone Bell, and Surf.

This is the Oaks 50th Anniversary

1905-1955

Join the fun!

- ★ **DEDICATION OF ORGAN.** In person . . . television artists! Gene Brendler, well-known television M.C., is Master of Ceremonies . . . with his cast of Channel 27's "SEE HEAR" program.
- ★ Participate in this outstanding audience participation show featuring Buss McClelland and a musical "Trip through the Organ".

Continued . . . over . . .

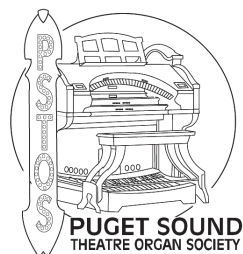
PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors

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Kenmore, WA 98028-3453

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nathan Avakian wows 'em all at his April 5th concert at Bellingham's Mt. Baker Theatre

The beautifully upgraded Mt. Baker Theatre was a perfect setting for Nathan Avakian's fine program on a sunny Sunday afternoon.

Nathan, a student of Donna Parker and past beneficiary of PSTOS scholarship aid, did everyone proud. He played a varied program with something for everyone. Although just 17 years old, he presents himself on stage as professionally as a much more mature performer. Congratulations on a great program, Nathan!

The PSTOS day-long coach tour included a morning visit to the Everett Theatre where Greg Smith demonstrated the features of the organ. Several past performers of note were then featured in a "virtual program"—via digital recordings. Thanks to Randy Mather for paving the way for this visit, and to Greg for his presentation.

The coach continued its journey northward, stopping for lunch at a local buffet eatery. Upon arrival in Bellingham, there was time to roam about the renovated Mt. Baker Theatre. It's a stunning venue. How fortunate that Bellingham has retained this community treasure!

It was an enjoyable day for forty-six PSTOS members and friends.



Nathan is as 'at home' with the mike as he is on the bench of the Wurlitzer.



Emcee Russell Gran congratulates Nathan on a fine program.



PSTOS members board the coach in Everett after visiting the Everett Theatre.