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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. 7

July 2009

A Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society

RESERVE NOW...

Summer Wurlitzer Party

WITH

DONNA PARKER

Playing the 3/18 Wurlitzer

*at the Kenmore home of
Russ & Jo Ann Evans*

*Enjoy a fun relaxed
program by Donna, then
join your friends on the
patio for munchies and
camaraderie.*

Sunday, July 19, 2:00 PM
6521 NE 191st ST
Kenmore

ADMISSION \$10
Age 16 and under free



DONNA PARKER began playing when she was seven and within a few short years her concert career began. She made her

first recording when just 15, played for the L.A. Dodgers and toured Southern California for Conn Organ Company. She studied theatre organ arranging and harmony with several well known theatre organists including Gordon Kibbee and Lyn Larsen. Later moving to Phoenix, she performed at Organ Stop Pizza, beginning a career that would last for many years. She has played at numerous restaurants featuring theatre pipe organs, including The Roaring 20s in Grand Rapids, Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, The Organ Grinder in Portland, Uncle Milt's in Vancouver, and Organ Stop Pizza in Arizona. In 1996 she was named ATOS Organist of the Year. She manages a teaching and coaching schedule as well, and currently teaches our PSTOS scholarship student, Kat Brightwell. Donna has performed internationally including appearances in Canada, Austria, Australia, Japan, and New Zealand. Donna enjoyed a 45-day concert tour in Australia and New Zealand last fall. We are fortunate to be able to enjoy a casual afternoon with Donna right here in our area!

Cozy seating limited to 60. Reservations requested, PLEASE!

Phone the Evans' at 425-485-5465, if no answer, please leave message.

Or email rj.evans@verizon.net

Please indicate how many will be in your party.

Drive directions to the Evans home, 6521 NE 191st St. in Kenmore

From I-5 take EXIT #175 eastbound onto NE 145th St., drive 1.4 mi. to Bothell 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 1/2 mi. to NE 190th St. Turn left (west) on NE 190th, drive one short block to NE 191st St. Turn left, drive one long block to a culdesac on the left marked Dead End, also NE 191st St. Turn left into the culdesac. The Evans home is the first on the left. Park in the drive or on the street.

From I-405 take EXIT #23 westbound toward Bothell, drive 5 miles, staying on Hwy 522, to the main light in Kenmore at 68th NE. Turn right (north), and continue as above where underlined. If lost, phone 425-485-5465.

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society
6521 NE 191st ST
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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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Pipeline Online Website—Tom Blackwell, 206-784-9203
Nat'l Magazine Reporter—Jo Ann Evans

LIAISONS

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.

In Memoriam

Frank Jones

Frank Jones, a member of PSTOS since 1974, passed away April 24th. He lived in Winlock, WA.

For many years, Frank could be seen at nearly every PSTOS event in the South Sound area.

He is survived by his sister, Margaret Perrotti, also a Winlock resident. Both have been active pipe organ enthusiasts for many years and almost never missed events at Gig Harbor or Yelm.

PSTOS sympathy is extended to Margaret, other family members, and to his many friends.

Frank Chidester 1913 – 2009



Frank at a Tacoma Pizza & Pipes open console in 1999 at age 86

Frank Chidester was a lifelong active pipe organ fan. He took lessons on the 2/9 Kimball pipe organ at Tacoma's Temple Theater, and played for silent movies until sound movies arrived.

He played at the 6th Avenue and Kay Street Theatres, both 2/4 Wurlitzers. He played for two roller rinks, Tumwater and SeaTac Roller Bowl. For twenty years he played at the "Top of Ocean Restaurant" on Tacoma's waterfront. He then worked on pipe organs with Homer Johnson, later turning to the repair of electronic organs.

Frank was a gifted musician and will be missed. A memorial service has been held.

This news from member Neils Pedersen.

PSTOS Coming Events

◆ DONNA PARKER to 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. Reserve at 425-485-5465, or by email at 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

Help Wanted

Organizing a big convention pulls members together and is a lot of fun. Be a part of the convention team by helping with food planning.



All meals for our upcoming 2010 ATOS convention will be "no-host" meaning we need to identify good buffet-type restaurants and mall food courts along our planned bus itineraries.

As the 2010 Convention "Dining Coordinator" you'll work with the convention planning committee and restaurant managers to identify potential dining stops, evaluate menu quality, variety, costs, and generally make sure our 2010 attendees have the best possible dining experience.

Please contact Tom Blackwell, 2010 ATOS Convention Chair. Phone: (206) 784-9203 or E-mail: tom@pstos.org

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 PSTOS members Tom Roughton and Wally Stevenson at the Wurlitzer, plus Melany Armstrong, organist and Carl Peterson, accordionist. All in a "Musical Cocktail!"

Sunday, July 12, 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

Help Wanted

Just a small amount of your time each month can greatly help the PSTOS Scholarship Program!



A volunteer is needed to help manage the inventory of surplus *Theatre Organ* magazines. PSTOS now has two complete sets of the magazines (1955 to present). As new donations come in, surplus issues are sold to benefit the PSTOS Scholarship Fund. The job involves maintaining a current inventory of available issues, accepting orders via email and prepared them for mailing via USPS "book rate" postage.

If you would like to help out PSTOS by processing these orders which are a significant source of revenue for the Scholarship Fund, please contact Tom Blackwell, History & Archives Committee Chair. E-mail: tom@pstos.org or telephone: (206) 784-9203.

RARE OPPORTUNITY COMING IN NOVEMBER FOR THEATRE ORGANISTS!

The day before his first-ever concert at Wurlitzer Manor, England's SIMON GLEDHILL will offer a double How-To theatre organ seminar at Bill Keller's Olympia home on Bill's spectacular 5-manual Allen theatre organ.

The first half will explore registration and its challenges as one faces the multitude of sounds available on a fine instrument.

A second session will cover developing a song into a full-blown arrangement—and Simon is a master.

Interestingly, it was Simon himself who developed the design specification for the 5-manual Allen instrument! So plan now to attend. "Meet the creator" and learn some of the techniques that make Simon an international theatre organ star!

PSTOS Nostalgia—A Look Back at our 1994 Halloween Costume Party...

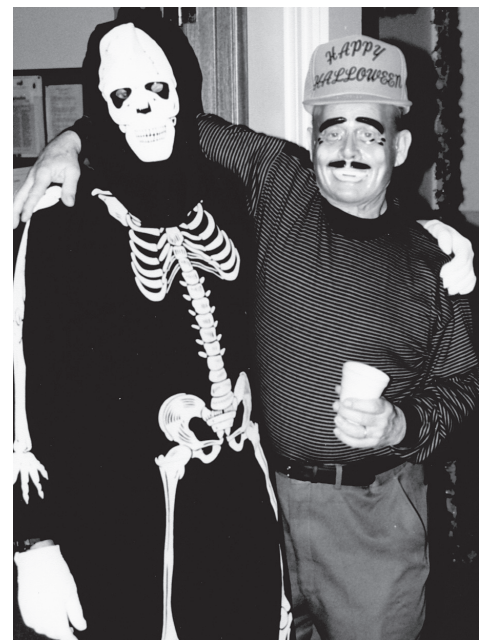


BACK ROW: Mary Lou Becvar, Jay Gerlings, Russ and Jo Ann Evans, Adeline Hook. FRONT ROW: Barbara Graham, Loretta Moore, Mae Louise Dopps

Would you attend a Halloween Costume Party? Send your comments to ray@pstos.org



Frank Myers



Jack Becvar and Don Myers

Pages From The Past..

The Everett Theatre opened on November 4, 1901. A 2/8 Kimball organ was installed in 1918. The original theatre was gutted by a terrible fire in 1923. Rebuilt at a cost of over \$250,000, it was renamed the "New Everett" Theatre. A 2/9 Kimball organ opus #6760 was installed in time for the grand re-opening on August 29, 1924.

The following newspaper articles about the opening of the rebuilt theatre and its Kimball are from the Wm. Bunch archives.

Everett Theatre Equipped With Great Pipe Organ; Embraces All the Latest Developments

Carrying out the completeness of equipment in the new Everett Theatre is the handsome \$25,000 Kimball organ, installed by C. M. Balcom, technical engineer for the Kimball company. The organ is declared to be the last word in unification, combining under expression every tone of the pipe organ with unlimited variety of orchestral instruments. The big organ was designed especially for the Everett Theatre, this featuring the policy of the Kimball company to install organs fitted to meet the acoustics peculiar to each house.

Adaptability of the instrument extends from its customary service in the interpreting the motion picture to its use as a vaudeville organ. Through deflected shutters the tones of the organ are first conveyed to the stage, then to the auditorium, this feature being of special benefit to the soloist or chorus. The Everett Theatre organ gives the performer ample opportunity to synchronize with the organist.

Through the flexibility of the expression chambers each solo stop may be used in accompaniment. From full organ, bringing out the various shadings of an overture, the organist may enter a solo in which the notes of the flute, for instance, stand out.

Electrical Control

The various parts of the organ are housed in concrete, sound proof chambers to the right and left of the proscenium arch. To the observer, the control parts of the instrument resemble generally a telephone relay frame. Hundreds of wires, emerging from a cable that connect with the organ in the orchestra pit, branch out to the various pipes and parts of the instrument.

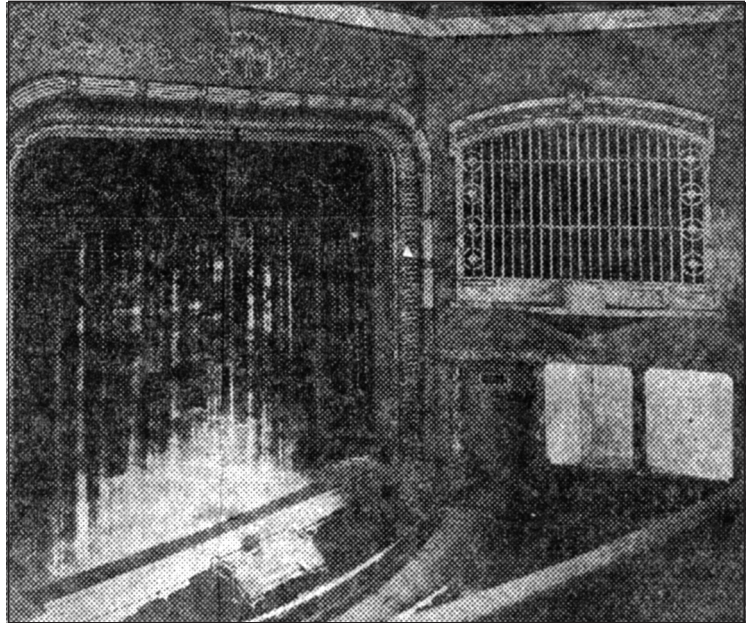
Despite the huge size of the organ, there is a minimum of vibration. The organ is built to give the theatrical operator and the organist the service desired and according to its builder, there is no chance of trouble occurring within the organ itself to hinder the playing of the instrument.

Deagan's special artist percussions are used with the organ. There is a full scale Kimball upright grand piano featuring the mandolin-banjo in connection. Ludwig & Ludwig traps and drums are found among the orchestral units. A genuine harp and marimbaphone stop are the other features of the organ.

The entire instrument uses a blower unit driven by a five horsepower motor generating electric current which in turn supplies the action for the organ.

Mr. Balcom, who installed the organ, is an expert said to be without a peer in the United States, having worked with Hope Jones, originator of the unified organ when he first began the manufacture of these musical innovations.

Proscenium Arch and Stage of the New Everett Theatre



Striking in every detail with its soft colors and pleasing finish is the proscenium arch and stage of the New Everett Theatre. The picture shows the console of the remarkable new pipe organ that is now installed and ready for tomorrow's opening, and to the side one of the tone chambers.

ORGANIST WHO WILL PLAY AT EVERETT



Harry Reed

When the strains of "Il Guarany" officially open the New Everett theatre this afternoon, Harry Reed will be the artist at the console of the huge organ. Mr. Reed was brought here by the theatre management from Seattle where he has been organist at the Strand theatre for the last two years. Prior to coming to the Coast he was with the St. James Theatre in Boston for six years.

Mr. Reed is well known in the East and throughout the Northwest as an artist of fine attainments.

Pages From The Past...continued

NEW THEATRE OPENS TO PUBLIC AUGUST 29 [1924]

Opening of the handsome new \$250,000 Everett Theatre has been announced for Friday, August 29 at 1 o'clock. Night and day shifts are employed rushing the work of finishing so that the last detail of the imposing playhouse will be in readiness by that date. All of the scaffolding has been removed and the painting both inside and out completed.

In appointments, lighting, seating and decoration, it is evident throughout the beautiful building that lavish expenditure has been coupled with the most discriminating selection and superior ability to produce the highly effective results both the interior and exterior presents.

Installation of seats, hanging of draper-

ies and carpeting will be completed by next Wednesday, according to Manager Inverarity. It will take three days to carpet the spacious house. Part of the 1,200 seats are already set up downstairs. Now virtually complete, the operating room is equipped with five machines, two spot, two new type projection and one effect machine.

Installation of the giant Kimball pipe organ was completed this week by Master Engineer Balcom of the Kimball company and is now being tuned. The organ is declared to be the largest in the Northwest and represents an expenditure of \$25,000. The Everett theatre management announces the selection of Harry Reed as organist. For the last two years

Mr. Reed has been playing the pipe organ at the Strand theatre in Seattle and is an organist of sixteen years' experience, playing six years at St. James Theatre in Boston. Two years ago, it is stated, Mr. Reed was offered the place of solo organist at Ocean Grove, Asbury Park, to play the largest organ that Hope Jones ever installed. The 75 piece symphony orchestra formerly directed by Victor Herbert plays there. Mr. Reed declined the offer, preferring to come to the Pacific coast.

His opening overture next Friday night will be "Il Guarany" by Carlos Gomez. The opening picture will be a Universal production, "The Reckless Age," featuring Reginald Denney, it is announced.

1967 George Wright concert at Portland's Oriental Theatre

To read the 1967 review of this event, go to

http://www.pstos.org/instruments/or/portland/oriental_geowright_nov67_review.htm

For Best Seats, Order Reserved Seat Tickets Today

**SAT.
NOV. 4
8:30 P.M.**


George Wright
PIPE ORGAN CONCERT
ORIENTAL THEATRE-PORTLAND

ALL SEATS - \$3.00

ALL SEATS RESERVED

**Starting October 16
Tickets At
Stevens And Sons
Lloyd Center**

**Or By Mail From
Bill Peterson
565 N. Portland Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97217**

2010 Convention Countdown

Your convention planning committee has been hard at work to lock in venues for our 2010 ATOS Annual Convention. Good news! We now have our final slate of venues, and it is impressive! Seven music-filled days, 9 Wurlitzers, 3 Kimballs, 1 Robert Morton, two sets of original Wurlitzer 32 foot diaphones and 4 original theatre installations! How can you top that!?



Our convention theme, "Seattle 2010, Where It All Began!" will focus on the story of Seattle's Dream Theatre (first motion picture theatre in the United States to have an organ installed expressly for the purpose of accompanying silent films, 1908). We will also highlight Seattle's Liberty Theatre Wurlitzer (1914) which Fanny Wurlitzer and historians agree was the first truly successful Wurlitzer Unit Orchestra, and the one that launched Wurlitzer to be the dominate theatre organ manufacturer of the 1920s. On our Overture Day, June 29, we will travel to Spokane to see and hear this impressive instrument. It will knock your socks off!

Bob Zat is currently assembling a top-notch 15 minute video that will promote the 2010 convention. I will present this video at the 2009 ATOS annual convention being held in Cleveland this July. The video promotes Seattle not only as a thrilling spot for theatre organ music, but also as a fun vacation destination in its own right.

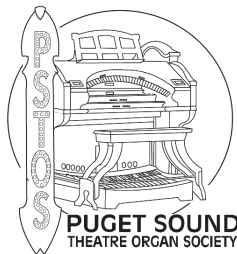
Even though we've made some good progress, there is much still to be done! See notice elsewhere in this issue soliciting help with dining coordination for our attendees. If you can help out, please contact me at (206) 784-9302 or by email at tom@pstos.org.

T-minus 367 days and counting... until Seattle 2010!

...Tom Blackwell, 2010 Convention Chair

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors
6521 NE 191st ST
Kenmore, WA 98028-3453



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Project update!

Paramount Theatre WURLITZER

Following nearly four months of work by the PSTOS Publix team, the Paramount Wurlitzer performed flawlessly for the Silent Movie Monday's June series film, "Flesh and the Devil" (1926) featuring John Gilbert and Greta Garbo. The film attracted a large enthusiastic crowd of nearly 1,200 due to the free admission sponsored by Trader Joes. The tuning was great and mechanically there were no issues whatsoever! Yippee! This is significant because the Upper Main chamber was completely torn apart just a few short weeks ago with a lot of the parts either in my living room or in Russ Evans' shop!

The Publix team has contributed over 1,000 hours since January 1 on releathering and rewiring. All the hard work has really paid off. I think we can be extremely proud of the work accomplished, no corners were cut and the workmanship is first rate.

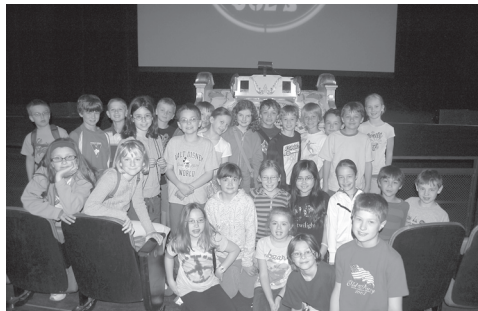
As part of the June movie series, several Seattle Elementary Schools brought their classes to the Paramount on the morning of June 8 to hear the Mighty

Wurlitzer and see a short silent film accompanied by Dennis James. Following the film, I provided an impromptu demonstration of the Wurlitzer and fielded questions about the Wurlitzer from the 3rd and 4th grade students. The kids seemed very interested and they had some great questions! PSTOS member Jeff Snyder was one of the teachers who brought their class to participate in this event.



Starting in July, we will begin the next phase of the work which includes new fans for the blower (metal fatigue in the cast metal fan hubs requires replacement) and a motor rewind to 15 horsepower. This work will be completed by Bob Otey of Kent, WA. Also scheduled for July-September will be bottom board rewiring and releathering in the Solo chamber. The Publix team is currently working to prioritize work items leading up to the 2010 convention. We hope to complete most of the mechanical restoration work by Spring 2010 so that we can contract for professional tonal finishing services prior to the convention.

Tom Blackwell, Publix team lead



Photos courtesy of Jeff Snyder