

# 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 14 No. 2

February 2003



## THINGS TO DO RIGHT NOW...

▪ Make your reservations for the Valentine's Day Party!

425-485-5465 or

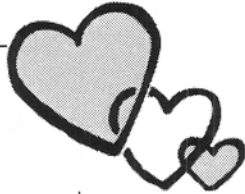
[rj.evans@verizon.net](mailto:rj.evans@verizon.net)

▪ Order your tickets for Bob Ralston's "Music & Memories" concert at the Paramount Theatre!

See page 4

▪ Tell your friends about the Ralston concert—Phone for a free supply of flyers!

425-485-5465



Come to the PSTOS Valentine's Day Celebration...

## "Pipes with Pizza"

With **DON WALLIN**  
At the Organ

It's Music, Movies,  
Food and  
Fun for all!



**DON WALLIN** was a staff organist for many years at Tacoma Pizza & Pipes prior to its destruction by fire in 1999. He teaches theatre organ, and installs and maintains pipe organs in the area. Don has played numerous times for various events at HLCC and we look forward to hearing him again.

**Sun., Feb. 16, 2PM**

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

**ADMISSION \$10 per person**

*Includes pizza, salad, beverage, dessert and entertainment!*

**A REAL BARGAIN!**

**DON'T MISS IT! MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**

**RESERVATIONS are ESSENTIAL!**

*Food will be ordered based on the number of reservations received, and it's VERY IMPORTANT that you let us know you'll be there. So PLEASE make your reservations no later than February 12th by phoning 425-485-5465 or by email at [rj.evans@verizon.net](mailto:rj.evans@verizon.net)*

**Please see page 6 for driving directions.**

## PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Vol. 14, No 2 – February 2003

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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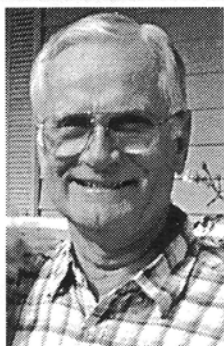
#### Listing of non-PSTOS events in the Pipeline

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



Our informal get together at Russ and Jo Ann Evans' home was well attended (let us say full house) and everyone who wanted to play got the chance to do so. Bob McCutchin and Bill Keller both entertained with delightful tunes. Ray Harris performed variations of "The Surrey With the Fringe on Top," Don Moore and Jo Ann Evans played several piano and organ duets, and Halie Dodrill provided some great piano solos. Norman Miller explained the history of his home pipe organ installation, then played several favorite numbers. There were lots of goodies for noshing, and great conversation.

Our next Home Party is at Dr. Carl and Halie Dodrill's Mercer Island home featuring their 13-rank Aeolian. If you can still pump a reed organ you will be tempted to try their gorgeous 1897 Orchestrelle (with player for those who claim keyboard incompetence). There are lots of other goodies to see, hear and touch and I have resisted the temptation to tell all, so be there and be part of it.

The next event coming up is our Valentine's Day Party (belated) at Haller Lake. Real live theatre organ music at our own Mighty Wurlitzer presented by our very own Don Wallin. Pizza!! Non-alcoholic libations (hey, driving totally sober in Seattle is tough enough). There will be a magic act of gargantuan proportions—Henry Cannon has condensed 15 hours of ATOS convention videos into 30 minutes for our wide-screen, high fidelity viewing and listening pleasure.

I talked with Greg Johnson, President of the River City Chapter of ATOS. Bob Ralston played there in September. Greg gave Bob's program a rave review and added, "If you want to see Jesse Crawford double note glissandos executed perfectly every time, don't miss a Ralston concert." More on the Ralston concert appears in other parts of *The Pipeline*.

## PSTOS Coming Events

### Pipes & Pizza Valentine Party

Another fun event. Bring your friends!  
See front page for details.  
Sunday, February 16, 2PM

### Bob Ralston at the Paramount Theatre

Biggest event of 2003! Don't miss it!  
Sunday, March 16, 2:30 PM

### Home party!

Carl & Halie Dodrill home, Mercer Island  
Saturday, April 5th

### Tentative major concert coming in May

Stay tuned!

### Home party!

Bill Keller home near Olympia. Enjoy hearing and playing Bill's spectacular Custom Allen Theatre Organ while you socialize with your PSTOS friends.  
Saturday, June 21st

### Summer Social & Concert

Jack & Mary Lou Becvar home in Kent. A concert on their 3-manual Wurlitzer. Artist to be announced.  
Sunday, July 20

### Home party!

Ray & Muriel Whelpley home, Bellevue. Another opportunity to hear and play a beautifully restored Wurlitzer!  
Saturday, Aug. 9

### AMICA Convention

(Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association) This will be a fun time. Let's charter a bus or even a train car! Hear Jonas Nordwall at the Oaks Park Rink and many other wonderful programs.  
August 20-24—Stay tuned for more details!

### Big Autumn Event at Haller Lake Community Club

Possibly another Oktoberfest!  
Sunday, October 19

### Holiday Party at Haller Lake Sunday, Dec. 7

# OTHER Events of Interest

## Oregon Coast Organ Crawl

Columbia River Organ Club (CROC) hosts a mid-winter weekend getaway to Lincoln City, Salishan Lodge, and Newport. You'll hear Terry Snyder, Eric Shoemaker and Jonas Nordwall perform. For all the exciting information phone 503-233-7274.  
**February 8-9**

## Jelani Eddington at Salem's Elsinore Theatre

Jelani is an outstanding theatre organist. This is one not to miss. CROC event.  
**Sunday, April 6, 2 PM**

## England's Simon Gledhill at Portland's Cleveland H.S.

Another outstanding theatre organist from overseas. Sponsored by Portland Chapter, ATOS.  
**Friday, May 2, 7:30 PM**

## Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society Treasurer's Report for 2002 Statement of Income and Expense

### Income:

Dues	\$3,125.00
Scholarship	1,915.00
Event income	5,843.00
Magazine sales	857.00
Interest income	15.77
Miscellaneous income	307.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$12,062.77</b>

### Expense:

Pipeline printing/distribution	\$ 871.10
Scholarship lessons/travel	2,623.83
Electricity, HLCC organ	219.18
Postage/bulk mailing	550.00
Event expense	3,490.84
HLCC rental	300.00
Insurance	650.00
TV/VCR purchase	248.50
HLCC organ upgrade	255.12
Website expense	348.65
Misc. expenses	239.68
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$9,796.90</b>

**NET** **\$2,265.87**

Checking acct. bal. 12/1/02	\$7,952.72
Money Market acct 12/1/02	\$22,086.92
Scholarship Fund	\$5,016.01
HLCC organ fund	\$1,777.92
Magazine fund	\$878.46

# Pipe Organ Terminology

**CONSOLE**—in a pipe organ, this term refers to the “key desk” of an organ, containing manuals, pedals, stops, couplers, music rack, and other devices used by the organist to control the sounds produced by the pipes. The term does not include the pipes themselves which are usually located in separate rooms called “chambers” and which are collectively referred to as *the organ*. Thus a pipe organ consists of the *console*, which is the part you can see, and the *organ* which is usually hidden from view.

This can be slightly confusing to folks whose organ experience has been exclusively with self-contained electronic instruments, the console of which is generally referred to as the organ, and which contains not only all the devices used by the organist to control the sounds, but which also contains all the sound-generating electronics, speakers, etc. If an electronic organ is also equipped with external speakers, these would roughly equate to the pipe chambers of a pipe organ.

## A Warm PSTOS Welcome To These NEW MEMBERS!

**Dick & Beth Duchaine**  
Bainbridge Island

**Ruth J. Lavine**  
Los Angeles, CA

**Lynn & Dianne Mordick**  
Rochester, WA

**Paul & Janice Putnam**  
Woodinville

# ANSWERS TO MANY QUESTIONS about the RALSTON CONCERT...

Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society and Seattle Theatre Group celebrate the 75th anniversary of Seattle's Paramount Theatre with one performance only of *Bob Ralston presents "Music and Memories"* featuring the mighty Wurlitzer at Seattle's Paramount Theatre, 901 Pine St. on Sunday, March 16, 2003 at 2:30 in the afternoon. (Show will end about 5 PM).

## TICKET PRICES

Tickets are \$20 for the First Mezzanine (front 8 rows of the balcony, 414 seats), \$25 for the Orchestra (front 7 rows of the center sections of the main floor, 190 seats) and \$15 for the other 2,203 seats.

## HOW TO ORDER TICKETS

Tickets can be purchased from the Paramount box office in person or at 206-467-5510; through Ticketmaster (per ticket processing fee is charged in addition to ticket price); or from PSTOS by leaving a message with Clint Meadway (toll-free voice mail 877-843-0953).

## GROUP DISCOUNTS

There are group discounts available as follows: 10% off for ten or more tickets paid with one check, credit card or cash transaction. In addition, there is one free ticket given with every 15 purchased on the group discount plan. Group tickets can only be purchased through the Paramount by contacting Angela at 206-315-8015.

The contract between PSTOS and the Paramount does not allow us to sell our tickets at a discount.

## WHERE TO PARK

Parking is available at the Trade & Convention Center, 9th and Pike for \$6 for Paramount patrons. Keep your Theatre ticket stub and present it to the parking cashier for this special rate.

If you have additional questions, please leave a message with Clint Meadway toll-free at **1-877-843-0953**. He'll return your call.



**COMING TO THE SEATTLE PARAMOUNT**

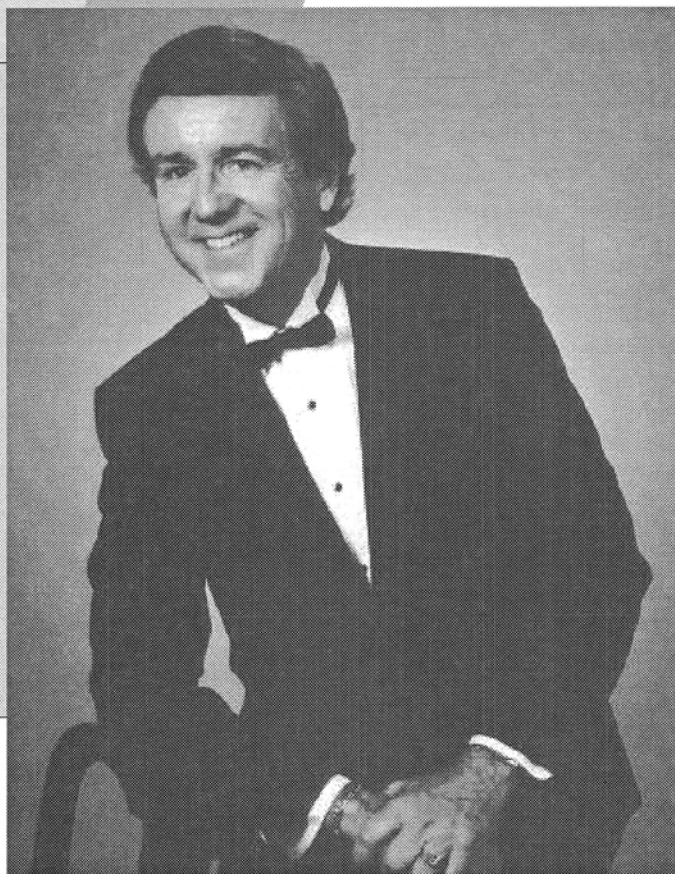
*The Lawrence Welk  
Orchestra's*  
**BOB RALSTON**  
*Presents*

*"Music and Memories"*  
**On The Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer**

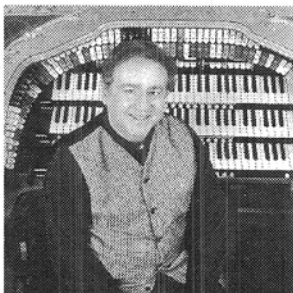
*BOB RALSTON, the Lawrence Welk  
Orchestra's pianist, organist and  
arranger for 39 years, celebrates the  
75th anniversary of Seattle's Historic  
Paramount Theatre  
with an afternoon of*

*"Music and Memories."*

*Bob will feature the thrilling sounds of  
the Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer Pipe  
Organ as it was enjoyed by theatre  
patrons on opening day in 1928.*



**Sunday, March 16 – 2:30 PM**

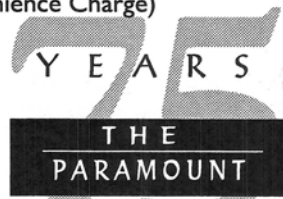


**Tickets \$15 • \$20 • \$25**

Available through Ticketmaster. (Ticketmaster adds a per-ticket Convenience Charge)  
Or direct from the Paramount box office at 206-467-5510.

For group ticketing, phone Angela, 206-315-8015.  
Ten or more tickets on one transaction, 10% discount,  
PLUS one FREE ticket with every 15 tickets purchased.

Presented by Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society and Seattle Theatre Group



# Pages From The Past...

The following article wins our prize for gross exaggeration! It appeared in the *Vallejo (Calif.) Times-Herald* on May 17, 1956. The instrument is a Wurlitzer Opus 1942, originally shipped to Chicago's Paradise Theatre on August 28, 1928. In 1951 it was purchased by Richard Vaughn and in 1967, it was acquired by Bill Brown, of Phoenix, and resides in his home today. The top photo (pedalboard removed and cables coiled ready to be moved) shows the console as it was decorated for use in the theatre. It was later remodelled, with the style vastly simplified, as shown in the lower photo.

**HOLLYWOOD** — The eighth wonder of the world might easily be the earth's largest orchestral pipe organ, which is stuffed into a private home a stone's throw from movieland.

Owner of the huge device is Richard Vaughn, a soft-spoken 33-year-old record company executive who doesn't know how to play it.

The console, or keyboard, is located in his living room and resembles nothing so much as a dozen pianos stacked on top of one another. It contains 256 stop keys, 337 manual and pedal keys, five banks of keyboards.

A CABLE runs to the basement where Vaughn has crammed five cavernous rooms with 3,100 pipes, percussion instruments, electrical equipment and a wind-making machine.

"The generator creates a wind equal to a 40-mph gale," Vaughn said modestly. "There are more than 10,000 wires in the main cable, and a million or so electrical connections in all."

An electrical engineer, Vaughn bought his 10-room Spanish-style home in 1949 to house the gigantic instrument.

"I bought the organ from the Paradise Theatre in Chicago," said Vaughn. "We brought it out here in a 35-foot trailer truck and a railway boxcar. It took five people 71 days, working 16 hours daily, to install it."

"THE LAST Wurlitzer like this was built in 1939 for about \$120,000. There are only two others like it."



Why does a man fill his home with such a machine?

"Because I like organ music," he answered simply.

It's a good thing he hasn't taken a fancy to Guy Lombardo's band. There wouldn't be enough sleeping space in the house for that many musicians.

"Ever since I was a youngster I was attracted to organs. There was so much going on that you couldn't see. It makes a person curious.

"I'M STUCK with it now," he added, sounding like a man who had been bequeathed a herd of elephants.

"I do most of the electrical repairs," Vaughn went on. "There are 35 instruments represented, including 61 trumpets and saxes and 400 violin sounds. If all the stops were used at top volume it would sound like an H-bomb explosion."

Among the offbeat instruments are a glockenspiel, tambourines and a Chinese gong.

"THESE WALLS are a foot thick," Vaughn explained. "The whole house vibrates when the organ is going, but you can't hear it across the street."

His hobby became a million-dollar business when Vaughn formed his own record company (High-Fidelity Recordings, Inc.) last year [1955] to wax long-play albums with George Wright at the console. Thus far he's sold more than 200,000 copies—at five bucks per.

"Only drawback about the whole business," says bachelor Vaughn. "You can have a wife or you can own a pipe organ—but not at the same time!"

From the William Bunch archives



**PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY**

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Drive directions to Haller  
Lake Improvement Club  
for the PSTOS**

**Valentine's Day Party**

**12579 Densmore Ave. N. • Seattle**

**Northbound I-5:** Use Exit 174 onto NE 130th St., turn left over freeway one long block to 1st Ave. N.E. Turn left (south) one block to 128th\*. Right on N.E. 128th a few blocks to Densmore. Left on Densmore, clubhouse is on the right. Parking both front and rear.

**Southbound I-5:** Use Exit 175 onto N.E. 145th, turn right one block to 1st Ave. N.E. Left (south) through N.E. 130th to N.E. 128th. Continue where underlined above.

**Here's an unexpected request...**

**PSTOS needs two or three electric roasters!**

Do you have a no-longer-used electric roaster on a shelf?  
Or do you have a roaster you are willing to loan for a day or two when needed?

Four borrowed roasters were used to handle food for **OKTOBERFEST**. The job of preparing and serving food for our group could be much simplified if roasters were readily available.

If you have a roaster you're willing to donate (remember, we're a legitimate 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization) or if you're willing to loan a roaster when needed, please phone Barbara Graham at 206-525-7859. Or email her at [bxgraham@msn.com](mailto:bxgraham@msn.com)

Thanks so much!

**PSTOS recognizes the following members who generously contributed to the Jane & Homer Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund during 2002.**

A total of \$2,623.83 was paid during the year for scholarship support. You helped make it possible! Thank you!

- Bill Bailey & David Gee
- Al & Jeanette Brown
- Chuck Chuljian
- Doris Cooley
- Melville & Verla Croan
- Robert Crone
- Bob Franklin
- Glenn Goodson
- Wendell Graham
- Vernon & Shirley Greenstreet
- Cal Halbert
- Bill & Helen Hale
- Belmon Hall
- Carl Helander

- Gwendolyn Helm
- Phil & Sis Hubbard
- Pat & Ray Hughey
- Norman Knaack
- Raymond & Barbara Lavine
- Mike McDonald
- Ted & Aileen Miholovich
- Margaret Perotti
- Max Power
- Mel & Elena Retzlaff
- Carroll Richards
- Peter & Mildred Romans
- Edith & Bill Ryan
- David & Carole Salyer

- Andrew & Grace Schroedel
- William Bill Sherwood
- Stu Smailes
- Art Smith
- Bill & Rayetta Starkey
- Dick & Eleanor Taylor
- Bobby Thorson
- Linda Van Dyk
- Bill & Peg Van Natter
- Richard Warburton
- Lee & Barbara Wells
- Diane Whipple
- Maury & Fran Willyard
- Glen & Sharon Winship