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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. 3

March 2009

A Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society

## **Reserve NOW — Luxury “Road Coach Cruise” to EVERETT and BELLINGHAM!**

*A relaxing day of fun, friends, food and music!*

*Featuring*

# Nathan Avakian

*at Bellingham’s original  
Mt. Baker Theatre Wurlitzer*

Nathan is one of the up-and-coming bright stars in the theatre organ world. Presently preparing for the American Theatre Organ Society’s Young Organist Competition in Cleveland this July, Nathan is set to wow ‘em! He’ll wow you, too, at this, his second appearance at Bellingham’s Mt. Baker Theatre. **Don’t miss it!**



### **Sunday, April 5th**

**Board the coach...** At 8:45 Sunday morning, April 5th, at Prosser’s Shoreline store, 185th & Aurora.

**NOTE:** If you use Google or Mapquest for drive directions, use 18503 Firlands Way N., Shoreline, 98133

**First stop...** Everett Theatre to hear our Mystery Artist on the recently installed 3/18 Kimball.

**Then on to...** Royal Fork Buffet Restaurant for an included delicious lunch, before heading to Bellingham.

### **A special full-day event, all for just \$45!**

**Includes round trip luxury coach transportation, cameo concert at the Historic Everett Theatre, all-you-can-eat buffet lunch, and NATHAN AVAKIAN concert at the Mt. Baker Theatre. A real entertainment bargain!**

#### **SCHEDULE**

- 8:45AM Board coach at Prosser’s Shoreline store, 185th & Aurora
- 9:00 Depart for Historic Everett Theatre
- 9:30 Arrive lovely Everett Theatre. Enjoy our Mystery Artist and open console on the 3/18 Kimball
- 10:45 Board coach for Royal Fork Buffet, Mt. Vernon
- 11:30 Arrive Royal Fork, enjoy leisurely lunch
- 12:30 PM Board coach for Bellingham
- 1:15 Arrive Mt. Baker Theatre, Bellingham
- 2:00 Concert with NATHAN AVAKIAN on the 2/12 Wurlitzer
- 4:30 Board coach for return trip
- 6:30 Arrive Prosser’s Shoreline store

Questions? Contact RAY HARRIS  
by email at [rayh@prosserpiano.com](mailto:rayh@prosserpiano.com)  
or by phone at 206.546.8959

### **Space Is Limited—RESERVE EARLY!**

**IMPORTANT—Advance reservations and payment are necessary to enable bus arrangements to be finalized.  
Deadline for reservations—March 21st**

Your PSTOS Program Committee has been working hard to organize this very special event at which you’ll see and hear two truly outstanding northwest theatre organs. Many have asked for bus transportation to events. This has been arranged, with much appreciation to Prosser’s and to member Ray Harris in particular, for organizing parking at their Shoreline store location.

**Live south of Seattle? Wanna’ catch the coach to Bellingham? Be one of the lucky 14! See page 6**

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Published monthly by  
Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society  
6521 NE 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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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.

## 2010 Convention Countdown

We're excited to announce that the Renaissance Seattle, located at 6th and Madison, will be our 2010 ATOS Convention headquarters hotel! The four-star Renaissance is part of the Marriott family of hotels and offers beautifully renovated rooms, superb meeting spaces and great accessibility for bus transportation. Best of all, we secured a fantastic rate of only \$109 per night!... unheard of, for this class of hotel in downtown Seattle. Next steps for the planning committee are venue and artist selection. The dates for the convention will be Tuesday June 29 through Saturday July 3, 2010 with an optional Overture (pre-glow) event Monday June 28 and Encore (after-glow) event on Sunday July 4. Stay tuned for more updates!

## Project update! Paramount Theatre WURLITZER

The Paramount Publix Team (so named for stock model description of the Paramount's Wurlitzer) is taking advantage of the time between January and June silent film series to perform major releathering and re-wiring work in the Upper Main chamber. The windchests in this chamber still operate on their original 80+ year old leather and have been a constant source of dead notes. Additionally, the 1920's cotton-covered wiring will be replaced since it is damaged and no longer meets current electrical code. This work will involve removing five sets of pipes (Flute, Clarinet, Tuba, Tibia and Diapason) and placing them in temporary storage in the String chamber below. The windchests can then be tipped up on their sides to facilitate removal and replacement of the approximately 600 leather pneumatic valves. Fortunately, a lot of the releathering and re-wiring work can be done in the shops of Russ Evans and Tom Blackwell. Watch for work photos in the next issues of the Pipeline. The Publix crew includes: Tom Blackwell, Mark Baratta, Kat Brightwell, Russ Evans, Barbara Graham, Phil Hargiss, Dave Luttinen, Clint Meadway, Larry Mayer, Dan Warner and Bob Zat.

## PSTOS Coming Events

### ◆ A SUMMER WURLITZER PARTY at the Kenmore home of Russ & Jo Ann Evans

Another fun summer getaway with lots of music on the 3/18 Wurlitzer and munchies on the patio! Mark your calendar now. Limited to 60.

**Sunday, July 19**

### ◆ 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**

### ◆ 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. This will be the annual benefit for the Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer restoration fund. Put it on your calendar now!

**Sunday, June 28, 2PM**

## From The MAILBOX

### To Friends of the Roosevelt H.S. Froula Memorial Pipe Organ:

I am writing to update you on the progress of the fundraising for the installation of the RHS Froula Memorial Pipe Organ in the new Roosevelt High School theater. Thanks to your past support by contributing to the construction of the pipe organ chambers in the theater, the refurbishing of the organ, and the installation of the organ, we are only \$1,500.00 away from completing our fundraising.

We are very fortunate to have teamed up with the Seattle Chapter of the American Guild of Organists for the final push to complete our fundraising for the rebuilding and installation of the pipe organ. The AGO has pledged to match any

**Continued next page—**

# Other NW Theatre Organ Events

## ◆ Kenyon Hall in West Seattle

Latest news can be found on the web at [www.kenyonhall.org](http://www.kenyonhall.org) or by email at [kenyonhall@earthlink.net](mailto: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](http://www.croconline.org)

## ◆ Bellingham's Mt Baker Theatre

Mt. Baker Theatre Organ Society presents Vernon Greenstreet playing favorite organ selections on the Wurlitzer, followed by the outstanding Bellingham Youth Jazz Band. \$10 suggested donation.

**Sunday, March 8th 2:00 pm.**

## ◆ Spokane's First Nazarene Theatre Organ Society

Home of the historic and newly refurbished 1914 Seattle Liberty Theatre Wurlitzer. Meetings first Thursdays. Up to the minute news and events at [www.sfnatos.org](http://www.sfnatos.org)

funds they collect for the pipe organ up to \$12,500.00. I know that times are difficult financially for everyone, but if you are able, please consider contributing again to this worthwhile cause by sending a check made out to the:

American Guild of Organists, designated for the RHS Froula Organ Fund, c/o LaDonna Bowers, Treasurer, P. O. Box 19740, Seattle, WA 98109.

Progress on the rebuilding of the organ is moving along faster than anticipated, such that we plan on installing the swell shades the week of March 30 in the new theater at Roosevelt. The console has been refinished and looks beautiful! We hope to finish installing the organ in Roosevelt this summer, but we have a substantial amount of work left to be completed. We have work parties at Lincoln High School in Seattle on Tuesdays (1:00-5:30 PM) and Thursdays (1:00-9:00 PM). If you are able to volunteer your time please contact me at [a\\_wilson1125@msn.com](mailto:a_wilson1125@msn.com) or 206-526-8120.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Andrea Wilson

## Jonas Nordwall will perform rare organ work with Portland Columbia Symphony Orchestra

JONAS NORDWALL joins the Portland Columbia Symphony Orchestra for a rare performance of Rheinberger's Organ Concerto No. 2 to celebrate the renovation of the pipe organ in Portland's First United Methodist Church.

Portland native, Becky Anderson, comes home from the lauded Curtis Institute in Philadelphia to play the "Spring Concerto" from Vivaldi's beloved Four Seasons.

To honor Franz Joseph Haydn who died 200 years ago, the combined choirs of FUMC and First Unitarian Chamber Choir fill the stage for his uplifting Nelson Mass, a work full of optimism and dance-like energy. TWO PERFORMANCES:

**Friday, Mar 20, 7:30 PM • Sunday, Mar 22, 3:00 PM**

1838 SW Jefferson St, Portland, Oregon

For information and tickets go to: [www.columbiasymphony.org/concerts.php#gg](http://www.columbiasymphony.org/concerts.php#gg)

## Conn 651 a real hit at Merrill Gardens Retirement Building!

by Patrick Lajko

My mother got me into organ playing when I was 10. Music was in my family. My brother played steel guitar. Other relatives played accordion. Somehow I migrated to the organ. When I moved to Seattle, I bought a small Wurlitzer, rebuilt the console, digitized the pipes and made a complete "Digital Pipes" organ. Once built, I somehow didn't get around to playing it very much and it often sat idle for months at a time.

Nearly 3 years ago I moved my mother from Iowa to Seattle and into a Merrill Gardens retirement facility. Somehow, one thing was missing — an organ. My mother was my original inspiration for playing organ and when she moved here I had to start practicing again.

It seemed pretty dull in Merrill Gardens' huge dining room with no music. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have an organ? And not just an organ, it had to be a good three-manual organ that other organists would enjoy. After all, its not often you can find a three-manual organ to play.

The first organ I put in was a Thomas Palace-III. Not a bad organ with an added set of real orchestra bells. However, I really wanted a Conn 65x but Christmas 2007 was coming up and I wanted an organ there for Christmas. I built a platform with brass railing. The corner of their dining hall, with its high ceiling and hard walls turned out to be the ideal place for the organ.

I was still looking for a Conn 65x and found one on ebay that, after extensive repairs by Puget Sound Organ Service, was back to nearly new condition. I did the organ transplant and donated the Thomas to PSTOS for scholarship student Kat Brightwell.

I added 3 sets of Conn pipes and did a little revoicing. Wow! What a grand sound and a fun organ to play. I often play during



dinner on Sunday. Whenever I play, I get so many people thanking me that it makes all my expense and work worth it. One woman says that when I play it is the highlight of her week. She used to be in the music business. So when she hears the organ, it gives her memories of her past and a break from caring for her disabled husband. That kind of joy really makes me feel great.

Many of the seniors never get out. But they love music and remember the organs of their youth. The Conn 651 is just the therapy they can use!

The organ is now becoming a regular part of life at Merrill Gardens, located at 4611 35th Ave SW in West Seattle. If you go to Kenyon Hall by way of the West Seattle Bridge, you pass M.G. shortly after you make the turn onto 35th Ave SW. Anyone may play the organ and I would love to see more people make use of it. Just go in and say you're a friend of Patrick Lajko and are here to play the organ. Sign the guest book and they'll point you to it. I would suggest limiting hours to 8am to 8pm, any day of the week. Go play it and have fun! If you're going to Kenyon Hall and are an organist, then please give yourself some extra time and stop in at Merrill Gardens. The Conn 651 in the huge dining hall really makes for an impressive sound - and you'll bring joy to a lot of people.



# Pages From The Past.. 1927

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER—The Newspaper of the Home—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1927

## Master Organist Will Play Christmas Carols

### FINEST OF PIPE ORGANS IN NEW STORE

Only Department Store In West To  
Have Own Instrument; Daily Concerts

A GOLDEN-THROATED pipe organ, serene and splendid, stands high above the main floor of the greater Rhodes' department store in the center of the entresol (mezzanine). And from its position there its music will reach into the busiest corner of the shops and the street outside, with the magic which only music can bring.

During the Christmas season and the shopping weeks of the rest of the rushing year, there will be daily concerts on the pipe organ. Sometimes they will be amplified, sounding out to the furthestmost confines of the store. Often they will be broadcast over KFOA, to city, country and town. Sometimes they will be just soft crooning over that block-long floor and the hundreds who throng it, and over the entresol where the weary may lounge and rest.

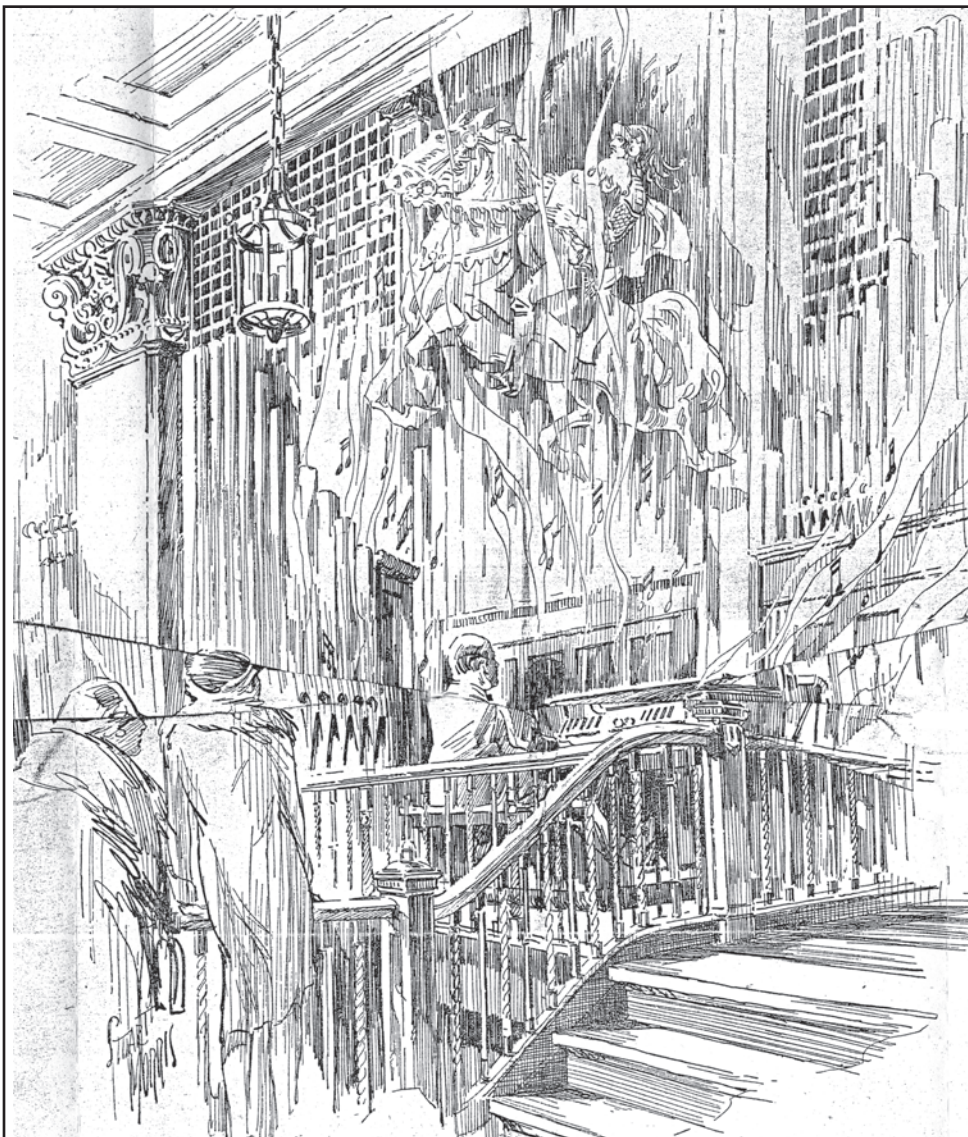
#### ORGAN TYPIFIES IDEAL

Somewhere behind that pipe organ there is the story of an ideal—a tribute—a memory. But only the music will tell of that. To the public the great organ will be a part of the personality of the greater Rhodes' store, a thing provided for their joy and their amusement, merry music while they shop, soothing music while they rest.

The instrument itself, one of the finest of its kind, is the Aeolian Duo Art pipe organ. It has three manuals and pedals and its mechanical playing feature gives an absolute reproduction of the technique of the artist. The swell organ has 12 stops, the great organ has 10 stops, the choir organ has 10 stops and the pedal has 7 stops; there are 21 couplers in all and the pipes range from 1/2 inch in length to 16 feet and from 1/4 inch to 14 inches in diameter. The great, swell and choir organs are under expression. There are approximately 70 "show pipes" beautifully decorated, that add to the dignity and magnificence of this organ.

### Brunhilde and Siegfried Go Shopping—

*The essence of Christmas—joy-giving, ageless, serene—unmarred through the centuries, unhurried by the crowds—will float out over Rhodes' Department Store this season from the pipe organ which rests like a golden crown above the broad aisles of the main floor. The music from that organ will be the music of the masters—the hymns and chants and choruses of the Christmases of other lands and other years, all woven into the tapestry of tradition. Daily concerts, with Frederick C. Feringer at the great organ, will be given, following the dedication Wednesday night. And in those concerts, over and above and yet part of the spirit of the Christmas crowds of 1927, will be the backgrounds of the givers of gifts since that first Christmas. (Sketch by Stuart Morris.)*



# Pages From The Past...continued

## DEDICATION OF PIPE ORGAN ON WEDNESDAY



Frederick C. Feringer

**T**HE pipe organ of the Rhodes department store will be dedicated at a public program to be held on the main floor Wednesday night at 8 o'clock, beginning with the presentation of the keys of the new store by David Whitcomb; their acceptance and acknowledgment by F. T. Barton, vice president; an address by Mayor Bertha K. Landes; and the address of dedication of the organ by Dr. Mark A. Matthews.

This will be followed by the first concert played on the new organ by Frederick C. Feringer, official organist and musical director of KFOA.

Feringer's musical career commenced when he was five years old—when he played a drum in a band. At twelve he played a church organ and at fourteen he was appearing in public recitals. His repertoire contains more than three thousand organ compositions.

At the Washington State Music Teachers' convention, held in 1927, Feringer took first prize in the organ contest. He is the composer of many selections for organ, piano, voice, violin and orchestra.

During the concert which will be amplified and broadcast, the store will be open for inspection.

## To Establish Branch of Organist Guild

Frederick C. Feringer, organist of this city and member of Local 76, returned recently from an eastern trip, where he visited in twenty of the largest cities studying organs and organ conditions. At Buffalo, N.Y., Mr. Feringer attended the annual convention of the American Guild of Organists of U.S. and Canada, where he succeeded in interesting the headquarters Guild officers in making an effort to establish a Guild Chapter in Seattle. Mr. Frank Sealy, warden of the Guild, consented to come to Seattle some time in July to arrange the organization work. Mr. Feringer succeeded in getting the names of over thirty-five organists in this locality that were willing to support a Western Washington Chapter.

During the trip Mr. Feringer played over twenty-five of the largest organs in the country, including the famous organ at the Salt Lake Tabernacle, the Sesqui-Centennial organ in the Auditorium at the exposition in Philadelphia, the Wanamaker organ also in Philadelphia, the new Italian Balbiani organ in St. Vincent's church in New York City and other notable instruments in New York, Boston, Washington, D. C., Pittsburgh and Chicago.

The Seattle man says that professional conditions here compare most favorably with those of any city he visited and is emphatic in his statement that the seven-day week is the curse of the profession elsewhere.

## PIPE ORGAN RECITAL IS WELL GIVEN

With the auditorium crowded, every ante room filled and all standing room taken, F. C. Feringer, prominent Seattle musician delighted music lovers of Ellensburg with his pre-dedication recital at the Presbyterian Church last evening.

Mr. Feringer first explained the origin of the organ and told of the finding of crude organs in the Egyptian tombs. He traced the advance in organ construction up to the present day large pipe organ operated electrically. Mr. Feringer is organist at the First Presbyterian Church in Seattle and he told of his organ there which has 5,000 pipes ranging from one 32 feet high to a tiny pipe the size of a match.

The first part of the program dealt with compositions of the early organ composers ranging from the early Venetian composer Gabriel to the compositions of Bach and Handel. One of his most charming numbers was the "Concerte for Organ," by Handel.

Two delightful numbers were "Danny Boy" and "The Rosary." The second part of the program dealt with the more modern group in which his poem picture of "Echo Bells" was one of the most pleasing numbers.

During the intermission a silver offering was taken to defray expenses. Mr. Feringer donated his services.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Many thanks to Peggy Lindersmith, whose father, Frederick Feringer is the subject of this article, and who so willingly shared her treasured newspaper articles with us.

A brand new PSTOS member, Peggy attended her first event at Calvary Chapel in January.

She is a friend of long-time active PSTOS member, Jackie Cedarholm. Both live at The Hearthstone retirement home.

Frederick Feringer also played the Alaska Theatre Aeolian Skinner organ when the house was renamed The Strand in the early 1920s.

Frederick died prematurely at age 39.



**Live south of Seattle?  
Wanna' catch the  
coach to Bellingham  
on April 5th?  
Be one of  
The Lucky 14!**



**Be at the Tukwila Park & Ride  
promptly at 8:15 AM Sunday,  
April 5th, to board the free  
shuttle to Shoreline!  
Member Clint Meadway and his  
14-passenger van will pick you  
up and whisk you away,  
delivering you to the  
waiting coach in Shoreline.**

**Advance reservations are  
ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY  
to reserve your seat!  
Deadline for reservations is  
March 18th, OR when the van is  
filled—whichever comes first!**

**DON'T DELAY!  
Reserve immediately with  
RAY HARRIS by email  
at rayh@prosserpiano.com  
or by phone at 206.546.8959**

**The P&R is located  
across the street from  
Prosser's Tukwila location at  
13445 Interurban Ave. S.  
Map and detailed drive direc-  
tions will be provided.**

## PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors  
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Kenmore, WA 98028-3453



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## Hail to the unsung heroes who made it happen!

Thanks to a long list of willing workers, the February 15<sup>th</sup>

**Valentine's Day PieFest and Cameo Concert** was a big success!

Well over a hundred folks enjoyed the "Valentine's Day PieFest and Member Cameos" at Haller Lake on February 15th. The pie was great, all eight varieties! Don Wallin, Tom Roughton, and the Ray Harris/Jo Ann Evans Duo provided varied, lively and enjoyable entertainment. Folks had a great time.

What you may not know is what it takes to make such an event happen. Aside from the entertainers, that is!

Heading the list is the crew who tunes and preps the organ. Bob Zat and Clint Meadway arrived on Saturday and donated most of their day to that end. They repaired dead notes, fixed other assorted complaints, and completely tuned the hundreds of pipes. It sounded wonderful. *Many thanks to both these dedicated guys. You're tops!*

Not only did Bob put in a full day on Saturday, but he arrived at 9:00 a.m. Sunday to un-box the console, do a last minute check for problems, set up the sound system, adjust the presets, and be sure all the equipment was working properly.

At 9:30, more helpers arrived. Russ & Jo Ann Evans and Dave Luttinen tackled the job of setting up the 14 tables with chairs necessary to seat the 120 folks who had reserved. No small task. The tables are folded and kept in a storage room with all the chairs.

About 11:00, Ellen Sullivan, Barbara Graham and Loretta Moore arrived and the place turned into a beehive of activity. Tablecloths were steamed and put on all the tables. Centerpieces and decorations were put in place. The beverage table was set up in the back and the coffee pot was started. In the kitchen food serving tables were set up and the more than two-dozen pies (arranged for by Barbara Graham) were cut. Ice cream was purchased at the last minute, as there's no freezer at Haller

Lake. Plates, flatware, napkins were readied.

Meanwhile, Ray Harris arrived with his portable electronic piano. Takes awhile to set that up and get it perfectly adjusted.

The clock was ticking. Oops! A couple of things were overlooked, triggering a last minute dash to the grocery store by Ellen, the "gofer."

Meanwhile, those who arrived early had already put in half a shift, and were hungry. It was learned long ago that workers need "real food," and it was time out to tackle a big bag of sandwiches.

The rest of the food servers/kitchen helpers arrived—Marilyn Schrum, Marv Remillard, Joani Roughton, Lee Isaacson, Betty Chang all were on duty to make serving the pie fast and efficient. Bill Keller and Tonya Harris manned the ticket tables.

After the program, all the tables and chairs must go back in the storage room. Many thanks to Jeff Snyder, Bob and Nancy McCutchin, Dawn and Kat Brightwell and all the others who pitched in. Your help is VERY much appreciated.

As 5:00 rolled around, Bob Zat, Russ and Jo Ann Evans were still on board to finish the cleanup. The console must go back in its box and be locked up. All the food service items must be packed back into storage boxes, loaded on carts, taken downstairs on the elevator, and stowed in the PSTOS locker. Believe it or not, even the garbage must be bagged and taken home for disposal!

At 6:00, the lights were finally turned out and the doors were closed! Another successful event has happened, thanks to all the hard-working PSTOS volunteers.

A hearty THANK YOU to everyone who pitched in to help. Without you, these events would not happen!