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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. 4

April 2009

A Chapter of American Theatre Organ Society

➤ Only A Few Seats Left!

*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!**



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Sunday, April 5th

Questions? Contact RAY HARRIS
by email at rayh@prosserpiano.com
or by phone at 206.546.8959

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 included 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

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?

Hop the FREE shuttle from Tukwila to Shoreline.

Reserve immediately with RAY HARRIS by email at
rayh@prosserpiano.com or by phone at 206.546.8959

**Only a few seats left—
RESERVE NOW!**

**IMPORTANT—Advance
reservations and payment
are necessary to enable bus
arrangements to be finalized.**

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Vol. 20, No. 4—April 2009

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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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.

PRESIDENT'S Message

Frost covered automobiles glinting in crisp morning sunshine and the reflective remains of our last dusting of snow are viewed from my home office window this morning. It is hard to believe that we are already using Daylight Saving Time and that spring is close at hand with near record cold temperatures in the forecast. The coffee tastes mighty fine in view of the cold weather.



I don't mind the cold so much as I object to the inane television broadcasters sticking microphones in the faces of people who have nothing to say except complain about the weather. The broadcasters seem to have a personal mission to turn a non-event into a major headline. Six flakes of snow melt on street! Film at 11!

Another pet peeve is the advancement of technology and its poor usage. Here you find the meteorologists with their fancy radar maps and they click and drag a line from point A to point B to show where the storm is tracking. Except that they are not looking at the actual flow of the air mass, it appears as if they are simply aiming the weather at densely populated areas for shock effect.

My step-grandfather was Captain on the first diesel tugboat in Puget Sound. He did not have weather radar in those days (1933), nor the advantage of any forecasting technology. He learned how to read the weather by looking at the sky and his predictions were usually spot on. My step-dad was a Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at Colorado State University and he piqued my curiosity about weather. Add to this the instruction on the way to obtaining my pilot's license including intense study about weather. Combined with all of this, my nerf brick is thrown at the television with me screaming shenanigans on the weather forecasters night after night. Granddad would be proud.

It was suggested that I fill some space for this issue of the Pipeline, so you get some irrelevant family history and personal pet peeves. If nothing else, thank you for the opportunity to ventilate some pent up stress. I've been house-bound since breaking my toe a second time in as many months. Our three cats are begging for intervention. Good thing for them I soon leave for Las Vegas to visit my dad and make a house call on some significant theatre organs in the area. The temperatures there are predicted to be in the mid-seventies.

Now, let's talk about PSTOS and theatre pipe organs!

The Bylaws Committee is actively reviewing the Bylaws of the Chapter and cleaning up sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, singular-plural, first-second-third-person, possessives, all those fun things we used to do in English class as students, and, if I recall, were convinced

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 great food 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

we would never use later in life. We are also reviewing the content itself to reflect our current administrative structure, and removing colloquialisms. Despite this paragraph's dry reading, the committee is actually having a lot of fun during its meetings while hashing out the details. My thanks to Barbara Graham for heading the committee, and thanks go to the participants Bob Zat, Jo Ann Evans, and Phil Hargiss, our (lovingly titled) nitpicker-in-residence. This group is so committed that they will be holding a second meeting before the next Board meeting.

The Publix I branch of the Organ Maintenance and Restoration Committee is working full time with the work on the Paramount Wurlitzer. Work began in the Main Chamber and there has been good progress in the venue as well as at the shops of Tom Blackwell and Russ Evans. If you have some skills to share, contact Tom Blackwell, crew chief of the Publix I instrument. He will plug you in.

The ATOS 2010 Convention is making good progress. The hotel contract is signed and now we are in the process of lining up venues. Probably by the time you get this, the committee will have progressed well beyond this point and my

President's message continued on pg. 6

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 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

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

Musica Curiosa Comes to the Paramount Theatre Sunday, June 28!

Dennis James requests your repertoire suggestions

On June 28th, Dennis James and David Peckham bring their acclaimed MUSICA CURIOSA program to the Paramount Theatre. This event will feature the Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer together with a variety of unique and interesting musical instruments from the Musica Curiosa collection. All proceeds will benefit the Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer restoration fund.

In advance of the program, Dennis James requests that PSTOS members send their suggestions for repertoire. You can contact Dennis by e-mail at muscur@gmail.com, or by postal mail: Dennis James, PO Box 2072, Tacoma WA 98401.

Paramount Theatre

Project update!

WURLITZER

The Publix Team worked at the Paramount Theatre every Monday night in late February and March (the only night when Disney's Lion King was not playing) on major releathering and re-wiring tasks in the Upper Main chamber (upper left



Publix team members Kat Brightwell, Eric Helgeson, Phil Hargiss, Larry Mayer, Bob Zat and Tom Blackwell examine two-rank windchest following removal

side of the auditorium). Five sets of pipes were removed to temporary storage in the String chamber below. This has allowed the two large windchests to be lowered to a workable height to facilitate removal and replacement of the approximately 600 leather pneumatic valves. Four swell motors (devices that control the volume for the organ) and associated noise-dampening "bumper" pneumatics were also removed at this time. Russ Evans has literally been a releathering machine (!) tackling all the painstaking work of manually recovered each valve in his well-equipped home shop with part-time assistance from Barbara Graham and Larry Mayer. Tom Blackwell has been re-working the Artisan computer control system layout with a new poplar

mounting board replacing the rough-sawn plywood used by the church organ firm originally contracted to install the system. The goal is to have all work in this chamber completed by May 29 in time for the Paramount's first annual "DOORS" benefit/fundraiser. This event will feature the Mighty Wurlitzer organ along with a variety of other musicians and performers. See the Paramount website for more details: www.stgpresents.org. The Paramount Publix crew includes Tom Blackwell, Mark Baratta, Kat Brightwell, Russ Evans, Barbara Graham, Phil Hargiss, Dave Luttinen, Clint Meadway, Larry Mayer and Bob Zat.

—Tom Blackwell, Publix Crew Lead



Phil Hargiss, Larry Mayer (with portable steamer) and Bob Zat remove secondary pneumatics and bottom board gaskets from one of the windchests in the upper Main chamber

Roosevelt High School pipe organ project report

I am pleased to report some very fine progress on the organ this past week (first week of March). Winding and wiring continued in the Great and Pedal divisions and to the point that we actually got the blower up with wind to the main great chest and to the Bourdon. It was a real pleasure to see this happen and for the first time to be able to play most of 7 ranks of pipes one at a time using a small rectifier to provide 15 v DC. All the Bourdon pipes work as they should, and there are only two problems we have come across thus far on the main chest. The walkboards were put up on the main chest and stabilized. In addition

to this progress, last week we started pipe washing and we continued with preparing the windchests for the Great and Pedal divisions. We also got the electronic drivers in place and we received the vast majority of the electronic parts for the organ from the manufacturer.

This coming week, we will see how close we can get toward the finishing of the winding and wiring in the Great and Pedal divisions. We are also going to do pipe washing and will focus upon the console as we get the basic electronic system sketched out for placement.

—Carl Dodrill, Pipe Organ Foundation

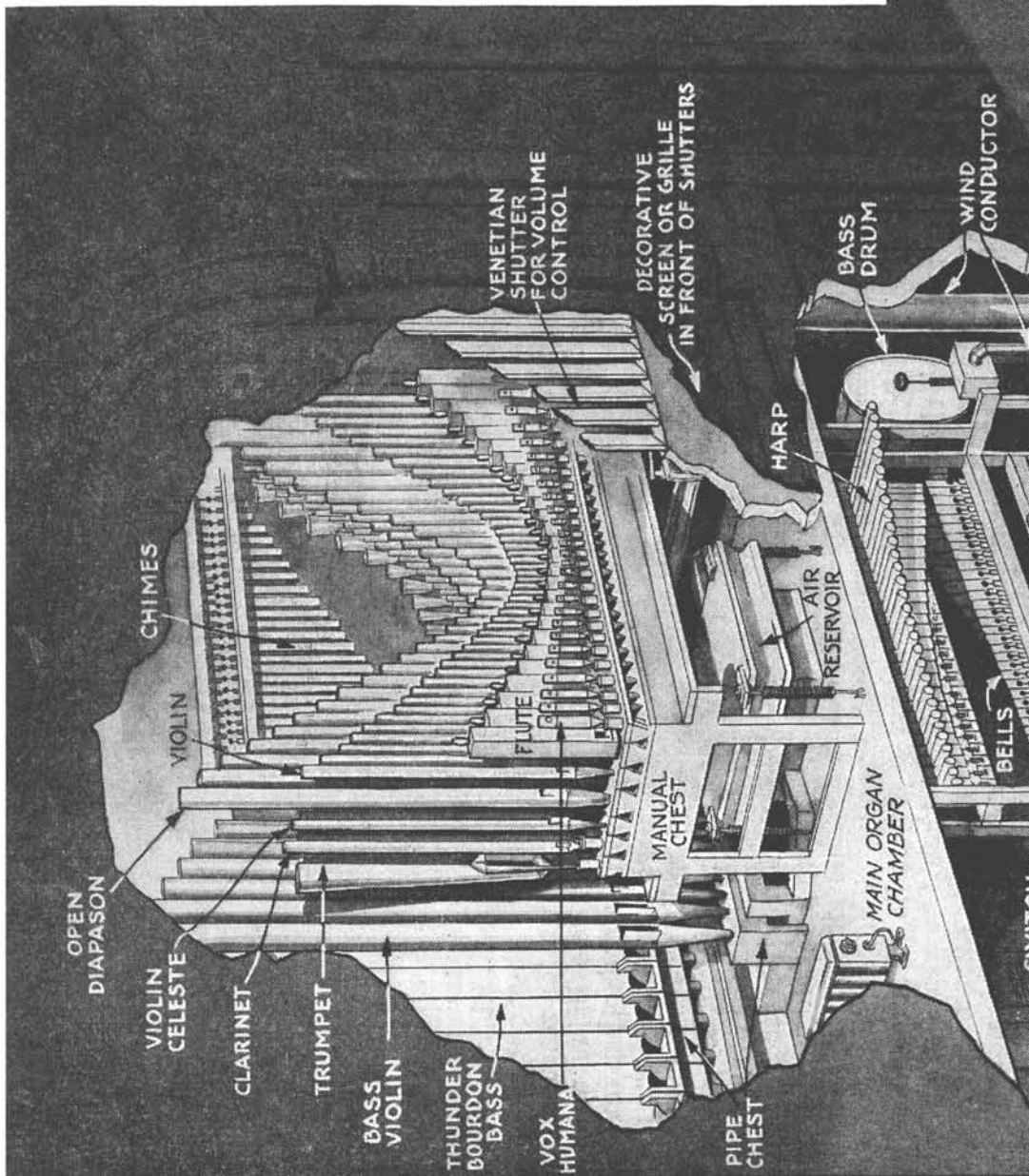
With many thanks to Peter Beames, a fellow theatre organ aficionado from Adelaide, Australia

DECEMBER, 1929

POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY

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A Box of Sounds for the Movies

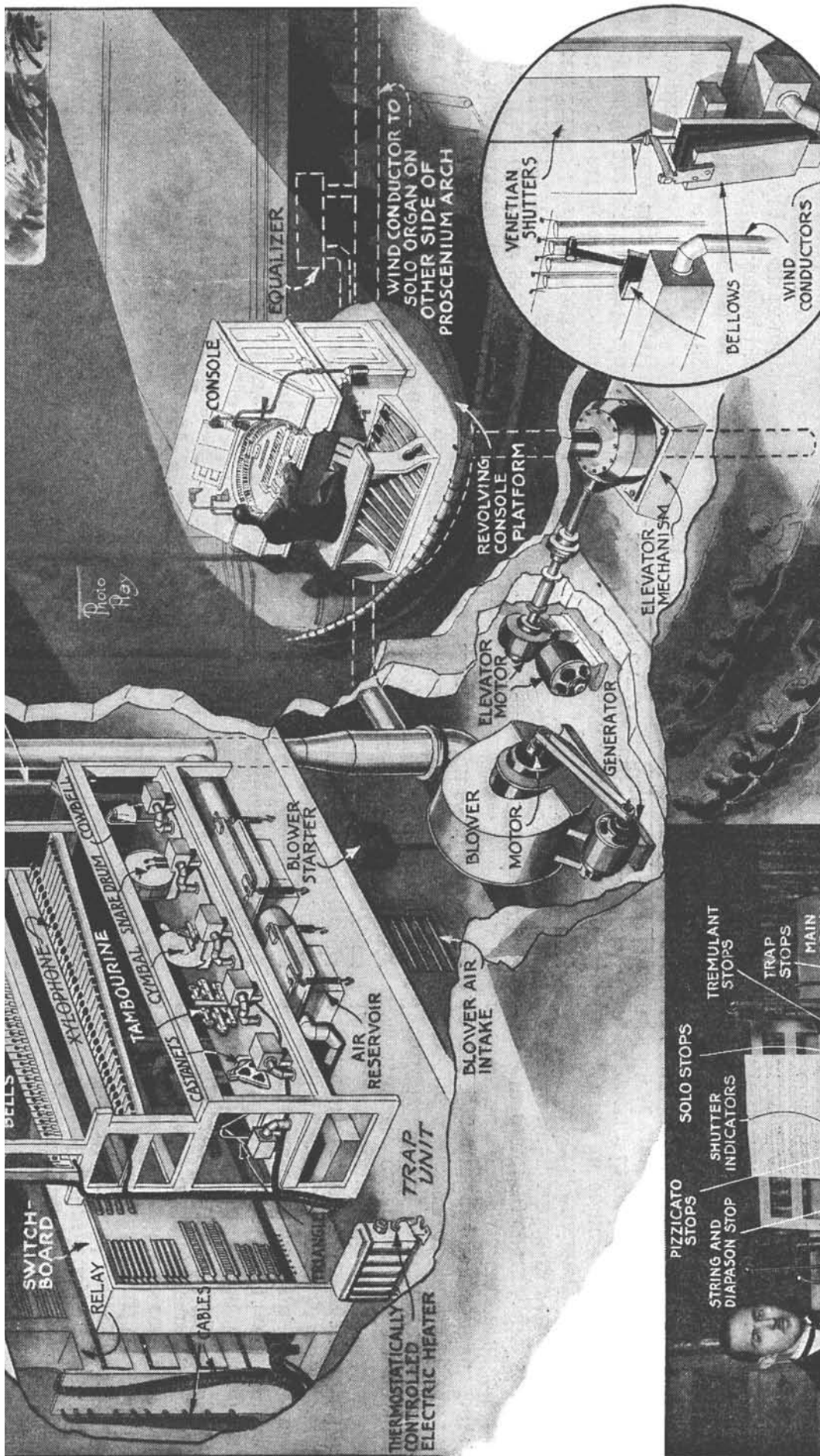


THE ingenious mechanism by which the modern electric pipe organ produces an almost endless variety of sound effects for the movies, ranging from the thunder of a storm at sea to the music of a symphony orchestra or a human voice, is pictured here. An organ of this type contains nearly a hundred miles of electric wiring and an intricate system of switches, through which the operator at the console, merely by touching stops or pedals, can produce the sound or combination of sounds desired.

Wind supplied by a motor-driven blower sounds the pipes and actuates other instruments, such as drums, tambourine, xylophone, and bells through electric controls. The design of the various pipes to imitate different musical instruments is a science in itself. Volume is controlled by shutters.

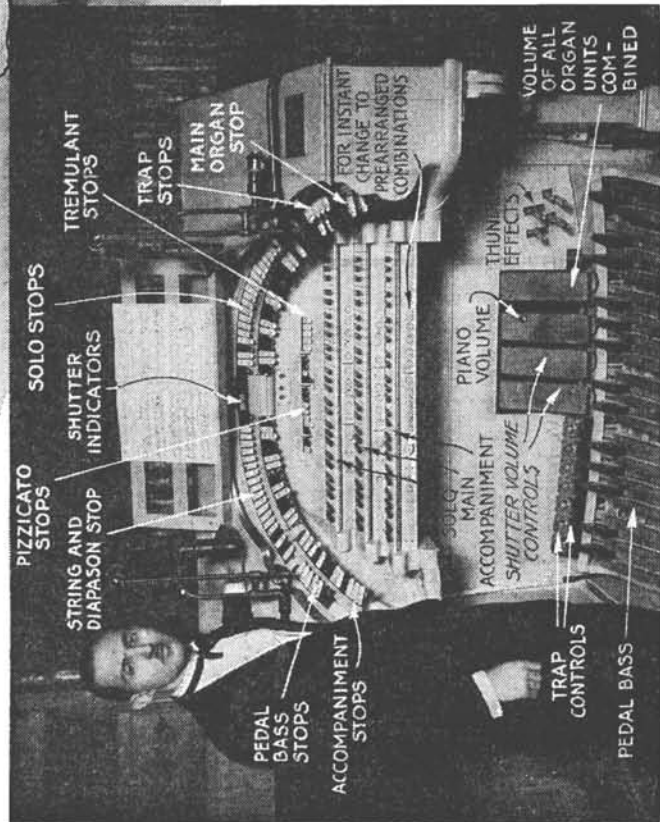
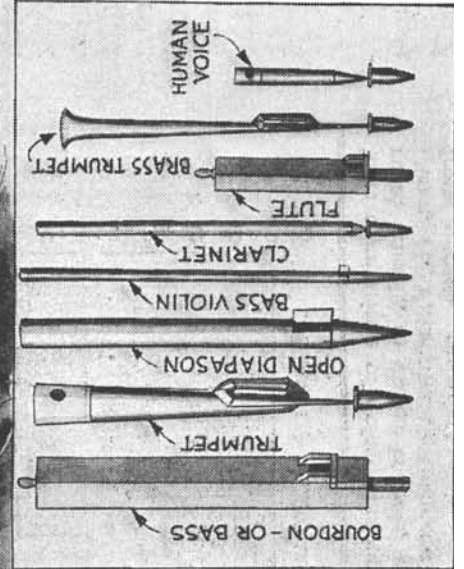
A thermostatic electric heater maintains a constant temperature in the organ of sixty-five degrees F., keeping weather variations from expanding or contracting the pipes to cause changes in pitch.





ELECTRIC CONTROL THROUGHOUT BUT MOTIVE POWER FOR ALL MOVEMENTS IS WIND

The view of the console (lower left) with its arrangement of manuals, stops, and pedals, gives an idea of how an organist, by electric control, can produce an almost infinite variety of sound effects. Console and organist are elevated above the audience by an electric motor. Various types of pipes are shown at left. The drawings are by B. G. Seielstad.



To receive fast breaking news and event reminders, be sure we have your email address!

Technology is speeding forward, making it quick and easy to stay connected.

Pipelines are published only monthly. The PSTOS website can help you stay current with up-to-the-minute news. However, it's easy to overlook checking pstos.org.

Email is fast becoming the stay-in-touch method of choice for members who appreciate receiving current updates and event reminders in their email inbox.

To be among these, be sure Tom Blackwell has your email address. Send it to him at tom@pstos.org now!

Be assured it will never be shared.

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors

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Kenmore, WA 98028-3453



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2010 Convention Countdown

The Convention Planning Committee has been hard at work contacting venues to confirm availability for 2010. So far, we have had conversations with representatives for the following venues: Paramount Theater, Seattle; Calvary Christian Assembly Church, Seattle; Kenyon Hall, Seattle; Mt. Baker Theatre, Bellingham; Everett Theatre, Everett; Wurlitzer Manor, Gig Harbor; Lincoln Theatre, Mt. Vernon; Washington Center, Olympia; St. Columban Church, Yelm; Temple Theatre, Tacoma; First

Nazarene Church, Spokane; Museum Theatre, Wenatchee; Oaks Park Skating Rink; Portland; Cleveland High School, Portland; First Methodist Church, Portland. A number of exciting venues have not yet been contacted. Watch for updates next month!

As a new idea for ATOS Conventions, we are considering an informal progressive tour of small venues and residence organs. Small groups would be able to hop on and off shuttle vans operating in a circular fashion between five or six different venues. Venues being considered are: Kenyon Hall, Haller Lake Community Club, Russ & Jo Ann Evans' residence and others. This event, most likely offered as an optional pre-glow add-on, would be a fun and informal way to get to know

other convention attendees in smaller, less crowded environments. If there is enough interest, we may be able to do a north-end tour and a south-end tour. If you have a residence organ and would like to participate, please let us know!!!

Artist selection is also underway. If you have a favorite theatre organist that you would like to see perform in 2010, please contact Tom Blackwell at (206) 784-9203 or by e-mail at tom@pstos.org.

Remember, the dates for our convention will be: Tuesday June 29 through Saturday July 3, 2010 with an optional Overture (pre-glow) events Monday June 28 and Encore (after-glow) event on Sunday July 4.

More updates next month!

---Tom Blackwell, Convention Chair

President's message, continued from pg. 2

comments will be outdated. Tom Blackwell will keep you posted in his *Pipeline* article.

One of the things I mentioned in my January President's Message was that we have opportunities to do things better. Under the administration of Tom Blackwell, committees were formed to create ways to increase member involvement. Some of these committees are beginning to function and it is encouraging to see more people getting involved in their Chapter.

Another way for you to get involved is *share your thoughts*. Do you have an artist that you would like to hear? Is there a venue you have not visited for a while that you think might be fun to visit again? Perhaps you'd enjoy another Ice Cream Social or a black tie dinner? The Program Committee has some good ideas, but just because the committee members like the idea does not necessarily translate to the rank and file wanting to attend. So, I pose the question for you to answer. We welcome your input.

For example, when planning the April 5 event to Everett and Bellingham, it occurred to us too late that this is also the first week of tulip season. Would you have enjoyed taking the bus on a side trip through the tulip fields – even though it would add minimally to the cost of the bus ride and taken additional time?

The leadership of PSTOS, specifically our Program Committee and its Chairman, Ray (Sven or Ollie?) Harris, would like to know your thoughts.

We have events that you are encouraged to attend. The next event, with the advent of Spring, will be held April 5th and have us traveling by bus to hear Nathan Avakian perform at The Mt. Baker Theatre in Bellingham. Since first hearing him play in 2006 at Kenyon Hall, and hearing rave reports of his progress, one cannot help but be excited to listen to his accomplishments as a musician and all-around entertainer.

And there is a van scheduled from the south end to Prosser's in Shoreline. It has only 14 seats, so you may want to ensure space by reserv-

ing early.

Not only are we going to hear Mr. Avakian play, but, on the way north, you also will get a chance to hear and play the Everett Theatre Kimball at an open console, after a mystery artist plays for us. And there is food involved between Everett and Bellingham. This is a fun day! Further information is available elsewhere in the *Pipeline*.

This summer we meet at the home of Russ and Jo Ann Evans for their summer gathering, and this fall we meet at Wurlitzer Manor to hear and watch Simon Gledhill tame the mighty beast.

Fun stuff coming up. Hope to see and chat with you on the bus ride to Bellingham!

Yikes! I gotta pack for the trip!