

The WINDSHEET

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OCTOBER PROGRAM

Larry Vannucci will play for us Sunday, October 17, 11:30 a.m., at the Empress Theatre, 338 Virginia Street, Vallejo, 707/552-2289. Admission for our first chapter visit will be free (see Board Meeting Minutes). Larry began studying piano and accordion as a youngster. He began playing professionally while still in school. After hearing Floyd Wright play at the Golden Gate Theatre, prior to World War II, he got permission to practice on several of the remaining theatre organs in San Francisco, learning organ technical maintenance in order to make the instruments playable. Larry is pictured above at the Robert-Morton organ in the Cinema 21 Theatre (formerly the Marina Theatre), 2141 Chestnut Street, San Francisco, which he has maintained for many years and which he plays whenever the theatre screens a movie musical. He plays regularly, Tuesday through Saturday on a Baldwin PR200 at San Rafael Joe's restaurant, 931 Fourth Street, San Rafael, and occasionally as relief organist at the Castro Theatre four-manual Wurlitzer.

The Empress Theatre is located in downtown Vallejo, approximately one mile west of Interstate 80, about two blocks from the City Hall. Northbound on I-80 from Oakland, exit on Sonoma, drive about 1-1/2 miles northwest on Sonoma, past a gentle right bend, to Virginia. Turn left (west) on Virginia two blocks to the Empress. The theatre is on the north side of Virginia directly across from a public parking lot. Southbound on I-80 from Fairfield, exit at Georgia Street, proceed west about one mile, turn right (north) on Sonoma, two blocks to Virginia, then left (west) two blocks to the theatre.



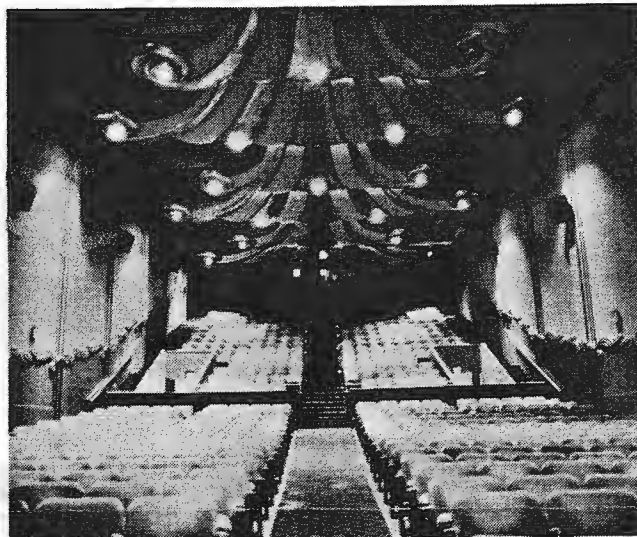
THE EMPRESS THEATRE AND ITS WURLITZER

In June we promised you more information about the newest installation in the continuing Bay Area Renaissance of theatre pipe organs. The Empress originally opened as a vaudeville house in 1911, using an orchestra for vaudeville and a piano for silent films. In the forties, it was redecorated by "Fox West Coast" which installed gold leaf swirls over the proscenium and in the ceiling, accentuated with indirect lighting. Closed from 1965 to 1980, the house fell into extreme disrepair. The seats were removed and serious leaks developed in the roof. Bill Elliott, Nor-Cal member, theatre enthusiast and lifetime resident of Vallejo, purchased the theatre in 1980. He restored it inside and out at great cost, including the installation of all new seats, and for the first time in its history, a pipe organ!

The Wurlitzer is Opus 952, to which a Marimba-harp has been added. The Style "D" was originally installed in the Gaiety Theatre in Santa Maria, California, in 1924. The organ premiere on April 18 featured Dave Quinlay playing a prologue and Bob Vaughn accompanying silent films. Since then there have been and will be more programs using the pipe organ (see special events below). The Empress operates seven days a week as a first-run movie house, operated by Red Sun Theatres, which operates three other theatres as well.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Miss Pauline Dixon will play for us for the first time at Redwood City Pizza and Pipes, Sunday November 21 at 2 p.m.



SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

On Sunday, September 19, Jack Gustafson played at Redwood City. He had returned at 3 a.m. from the Home Organ Festival in Asilomar in order to play for us. It has been some eight or ten years since Jack played regularly at the Capn's Galleys and the enthusiastic audience included professionals such as Jerry Nagano, Johnny Seng and Jim Riggs, who with all of us enjoyed hearing Jack once again on the bench in Redwood City. Those who knew Jack in Chicago did some warm reminiscing. We don't plan to wait so long before hearing Jack play for us again!

THE NEXT BI-MONTHLY CONVENTION '83 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING—will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, October 16 at the Community Room of the Fidelity Savings, Suite 480C (San Ramon Valley Blvd.), of the Garden Center Shopping Area in Danville.

NOR-CAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING—will be held on Saturday, October 16 at 8 p.m. at the home of Jim and Connie Dunbar, 13686 Old Tree Way, Saratoga. Please call them (408/867-1095) if you wish to attend.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES — August 7, 1982.

The meeting was held at the home of Vice Chairman and Mrs. Don Hilgert. Treasurer Etta Nevins reported a balance of \$991.08 in our checking account, which is used for day to day operations. Chapter net worth, including long term deposits, is over \$8,000. Current membership is 232. The formalities of convention financing were discussed. Some funds will be needed "up front" until registration fees start coming in. Money will be needed specifically for theatre rental deposits, advertising, convention committee supplies and postage, and a deposit for the bus company. An advance from National will cover much of this. Avenues for loans at low or no interest might be solicited from interested individuals and Rudy was authorized to advance limi-

ted chapter funds to the Convention Committee. It was unanimously approved to charge members \$1.00 and non-members \$2.00 for all Nor-Cal meetings at locations where admission is normally charged. It was unanimously approved to send the "Windsheet" compliments of Nor-Cal to anyone joining Nor-Cal and ATOS between the present time and the end of the year. The purpose of this is to encourage people to join ATOS for 1983 and eliminate the expense to National in mailing back issues of THEATRE ORGAN.

Complete minutes of Board meetings are available from our Secretary, Art Woodworth, 1000 King Drive, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Phone 415/524-7452.

BAY AREA ORGAN SCENE

CONTINUING EVENTS — Castro Theatre, 429 Castro at Market, 415/621-6120, 4/11 Wurlitzer played Wed-Sun before first and second feature films by Elbert LaChelle, Monday & Tuesday, after first feature film by Dave Hegarty. Current and classic films are shown. Call for film schedule and price.

Avenue Theatre, 2650 San Bruno Avenue, San Francisco, 415/468-2636, 3/15 Wurlitzer played every Friday by staff organists Bob Vaughn, Warren Lubich or Jim Riggs. Preview music at 7:45 p.m., silent feature at 8:15 followed by second feature film. Call for film schedule and price.

Redwood City Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway, between Winslow and Middlefield Roads, Redwood City, presents silent films with electronic organ accompaniment every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Call for film schedule and price. 415/369-2968.

SPECIAL EVENTS —

October 24 — First Church of Religious Science of Oakland, Bud Iverson in concert on a new Allen 3-manual Digital Computer Theatre Organ. Donation \$5.00. 5000 Clarewood Drive, Oakland, 547-1979. Tickets available from church or J. Nelson Piano & Organ, 4231 Park Boulevard, Oakland, 415/482-3900.