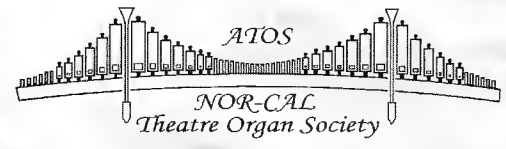

The WINDSHEET



Newsletter of the NOR-CAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
 PO Box 27238, Oakland, California 94602-0438 510/644-2707

www.theatreorgans.com/norcal

July 2006



SHINGLE SPRINGS PICNIC A GREAT SUCCESS

HAZLETON REMEMBRANCE

JULY 9, 2006

At least ten Nor-Cal members attended the joint Nor-Cal/Sierra Chapter annual picnic on Sunday, June 11th at the home of **Diane and Pete McCluer** in the Sierra foothills town of Shingle Springs. Although Sierra Chapter has held their picnics there several times, this was a *first*—and a memorable one!—for Nor-Cal members.

minutes about the history and current status of the wonderful installation that he and **Dave Moreno** have worked on so hard for several years. This was followed by **Pete's** 'obligatory'—but totally creditable—host's performance. Then he laid down the ground rules for the following *open console* session. The rules were simple: alternate between Nor-Cal and Sierra Chapter players, two songs per 'round,' and no 'jamming' with other instruments without prior arrangement with the organist.

Bay Area pipe organ fans, both theatre and classical, will gather at a *stage door social* at the Berkeley Community Theater on **Sunday, July 9, 2006 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM** to remember our highly talented friend, **G. Thomas Hazleton**, who passed on in May.

The **McCluers** have an ideal setup for such an event. The separate building they built to house the *3/17 Wurlitzer* provides comfortable seating for a good-sized audience seated at tables where they can enjoy a picnic lunch and good conversation, as can be seen in the accompanying photos.

There were impressive performances and unimpressive performances—what can I say? Everyone had fun, which is the important thing. The unimpressive performances—like mine—were mercifully short, while the impressive ones were disappointingly short.

Light refreshments will be provided and we will once again hear performances by this versatile artist, made possible by the magic of our computer controlled pipe organ! Every nuance of Tom's superb performance was captured at his concerts on our *4/37 Wurlitzer*, selections from which will be replayed on this occasion.

Sierra Chapter's **Tom Thompson** provided sterling '*walking in*' music for us, transitioning smoothly from one to the next very theatre-style number. Then came the part of the program everyone was ready for: **lunch!**

A photo gallery and slideshow of photos taken at the picnic are now available on our web site:

VERY IMPORTANT:

Call Nor-Cal's recorded information phone number **(510)644-2707** *before* coming to the BCT, to make sure that this event has not been cancelled due to a paying BCT
(continued next Page)

Our host **Pete** then spoke for a few

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When emailing, include ATOS in the subject line. Otherwise, if you are unknown to the recipient's computer, its SPAM filter may divert your mail.

HAZLETON REMEMBRANCE

Continued from prior Page

booking. We could be 'bumped' by a paying rental of the BCT.

This will not be an event open to the public (although you may certainly bring guests) and the front of the theater will be closed. Enter through the stage door. You may sit in the auditorium to enjoy the music, but the lobbies will be closed. The only restroom available will be the back-stage restroom.

**OPEN
CONSOLE**
Hosted by
Chris Nichols



This is an opportunity for Nor-Cal members to try their hand at playing the Chapter's Wurlitzer at the Berkeley Community Theatre. When the theatre is available, these sessions run from 1 to 5 PM. The next scheduled date is **Sunday, July 16th**.

Open Consoles are informal and our genial host, Chris Nichols, ensures that any Nor-Cal member feels comfortable. He lends help and support to anyone who needs it. Depending on how many members are present, each has one or more 15-minute sessions at the console.

IMPORTANT: Call the Nor-Cal voice mail at (510)644-2707 on that Sunday morning to confirm theatre availability. If there will be Open Console, enter via the back-stage door at 1930 Allston Way.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 1, 2006 SATURDAY (7:30 PM):
Stanford Theatre, Palo Alto:

The Rescue, Dennis James at the Wurlitzer.

July 9, 2006 SUNDAY (1:00 to 5:00 PM): BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE:

Hazleton Remembrance—Stage Door Social (enter the stage door—Call (510)644-2707. Listen to the recorded message to confirm we haven't been

'bumped' by a 'paying' customer.
July 21, 2006, Friday (7:30 PM):
Stanford Theatre, Palo Alto: *The Merry Widow*, Dennis James at the Wurlitzer.

August 4, 2006, Friday (7:30 PM):
Stanford Theatre, Palo Alto: *Diary of a Lost Girl*, Dennis James at the Wurlitzer.



August 5, 2006 SATURDAY (AM):
Grand Lake Theatre, Oakland: *Public Concert*, Kevin King at the console of his 3/18 Wurlitzer. \$4 donation requested.

September 1, 2006, Friday (7:30 PM), Stanford Theatre, Palo Alto: *Phantom of the Opera* (original Lon Chaney), Dennis James at the Wurlitzer.

CONTRIBUTION

Nor-Cal gratefully acknowledges a cash contribution from **Dave Goggins**.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2006

[The following Minutes have been edited for brevity; the complete official Minutes are available upon request to Nor-Cal TOS Secretary, Art Woodworth.]

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer **Ron Bingaman** reported that for the Lew Williams concert, revenues were approximately \$2,280, for a loss on the order of \$820.

Ron reported that the balance in our checking account is \$6,233.65. He said he plans to 'bump up' the interest rate on our CD later in the month after the anticipated increase in the federal funds rate by the Federal Reserve Board.

Ron said that **Anthony Gravante** has filed for an extension for Nor-Cal's 2005 federal tax return. Ron said that he will keep in contact with Anthony regarding preparation and filing of the return.

Membership Report

Membership Secretary **Neal Wood** reported that the Nor-Cal mailing list now stands at **387** consisting of 127 Nor-Cal/ATOS memberships (*Active members*), 54 Nor-Cal only, 3 Life Members, 13 complimentarys, and 190 *First Time Free* addresses.

Neal said that return envelopes are now being enclosed with the dues notices and the first reminders.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be 7:30 PM on Tuesday, August 8, 2006, in the scene shop at Berkeley Community Theatre, 1930 Allston Way, Berkeley, California.

Program Chairman's Report

Program Chairman **Gordon Pratt** announced the following confirmed events:

July 9: Tom Hazleton Remembrance at BCT. The Tom Hazleton Remembrance will be in the form of a stage-door social with computer playbacks from Tom's concerts.

August 5: Kevin King, Grand Lake.

There was a discussion of dates for concerts during the **2006-2007** public concert season. Public Concert Chairman **Bill Schlotter** said that the BCT reservation book will not be opened until July 1. It was agreed to look for four dates:

Late October through mid-November, February, March, May or June

At this time other events for the coming year (2006-2007) appear to be:

September-TBA, December (Dark), January (Annual Business Mtg, BCT), April (Morton Madness), May or June (TBA).

There might also be an October meeting, depending on the schedule for the October/November public concert.

There was a discussion of possible artists for the series, as well as a discussion of concert ticket prices. It was agreed that the public concerts would continue to be at 2:30 PM on Sundays.

ACTION ITEM: Board to discuss ticket prices for the 2006-2007 season at their August meeting.

Windsheet Deadline

July Issue June 23

August Issue July 14

Organ Crew Chief's Report

Crew Chief **Bill Schlotter** reported that during the last month the crew has been doing trouble shooting and performing maintenance on the auditorium lighting systems and the chamber heaters. He said the walk-board and ladder for the space between the two Phase 2 chests are ready to install. Rack supports for the longer Viola Diapason pipes are also ready to install. The next rank to be installed will be the Cor Anglais.

Bill reported that Berkeley High School will be utilizing more space in the Theater building for classrooms, due to

increasing enrollment. We were advised that we may need to give more attention to how and where our consoles and other items are stored, so that they will not risk being damaged. We don't expect any problems to arise with respect to our usual activities in the building.

Bill said that the 2008 ATOS national convention at Indianapolis will include a trip to Terre Haute for the premiere of the San Francisco El Capitan Wurlitzer. Nor-Cal donated the instrument to the Central Indiana Chapter. We had installed it in the Salinas Fox Theatre. Bill said that the Fox is back in use but we still need to remove some of our items from the Fox.

Old Business

Nor-Cal Bylaws

Frank La Fetra distributed a new set of Nor-Cal Bylaws in which he had addressed comments received on the draft he had previously distributed to the Board. After discussion, Frank said he would make further changes and e-mail them to the Board. He said he plans to send out the final version to Active Nor-Cal Members with one of the next two issues of the *Windsheet*.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur J. Woodworth
Arthur J. Woodworth, Secretary

CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE

Hello Nor-Cal members!

Well, It's finally summer. As many of you know, in my 'spare time' I teach 5th grade elementary school, so June is an important month (freedom.)

Last Tuesday, June 13th, I had the pleasure of playing our Mighty Wurlitzer for a group of about 30 young high school students from Berkeley. Our newest crew member, Henry Herndon (who is a student at Berkeley High School), included our organ as part of the final presentation for one of his classes at Berkeley. I would say that most of the students were rather surprised by what they saw and heard. Very few of the students there at Berkeley are aware of our wonderful instrument.



The dance class, which was meeting on stage, joined the audience as well. They really had no choice, it would have been difficult for them to continue watching the video they had on while the 32-foot diaphones were thundering over their heads!

After playing a real 'console raiser' and of course riding up on the orchestra lift, I heard one student say, "Wow, that's no Hammond!" There were many questions from the students who were generally wide-eyed with curiosity, but we only had about 10 minutes for the whole presentation. I encouraged them to stop in when the crew is there working for the real grand tour. With any luck maybe we will see one or two pay a visit during a Saturday work party.

I leave you with my limerick of the month:

*There once was a pipe called a Vox.
Which sounded like goats in a box.
Its tone was so throaty
Like Truman Capote
So I stuffed it with old woolen socks.*

Kevin

ATOS 2006 CONVENTION

Twenty-two SF Bay Area and/or Nor-Cal people registered for the convention. In alphabetical order they were: Frank Bindt, Dick Clay, Patricia Fitzgerald, Jack Gildar, Gale and Rudy Frey, Harry Garland, Geoff Hansen, Wendel Jacob, Dianne and Pete McCluer, Dave Moreno, Ed Mullins, Jerry Nagano, Joe Owen, Dorothy Ramsey, Dave Schutt, Marilyn and John Shurtleff, Chuck Vercelli, Evelyn and Art Woodworth.

Evelyn and I really enjoyed the convention. The convention was well planned and organized, the busing went smoothly, and the concerts were all great. The hotel was a bigger version of the Downtown Oakland Marriott *and all the elevators operated all the time*. I think the latter is a first for an ATOS convention. Watch *Theatre Organ* magazine for the official reports on the event. The following are some of our thoughts.

The weather was not as bad as we had feared - low 90's except the preglow in the Orlando area where it was in the high 90's. The serious humidity had not yet set in for the season.

The organs were well prepared, although the *Don Baker Memorial Organ* at *Lake Brantly High School* had some problems due to water damage two years ago and limited access for maintenance. Nonetheless, it is a nice sounding instrument. The organ at *Grace Baptist Church* in *Sarasota* was described in a recent issue of *Theatre Organ* magazine. The convention spent the day there because *Sarasota* is more than an hour away from *Tampa*. We weren't sure what 'could be played' in a Baptist church but **Lew Williams** finished up with the **George Wright** arrangement of *Love for Sale*. **David Gray**, **Richard Hills**, and **Jelani Eddington** really 'opened it up' showing that we had nothing to fear. It is a very nice installation.

The nucleus of the Wurlitzer in the *Roaring 20's* pizza parlor in *Elenton* (near *Sarasota*) is the original Oakland Paramount Wurlitzer. It is a good sounding installation, speaking into a dining room with a rated capacity of 425 (according to the fire marshal's plaque on the wall).

All three theaters in the convention and afterglow are *atmospherics*. The *Tampa* and the *Olympia* in *Miami* are by architect **John Ebersson**. Their polychrome plaster ornamentation is gorgeous. Both rate a peacock on a balcony railing because the plasterwork was by the Ebersson family-owned studio.

The afterglow was a long day because of the distance between *Tampa* and *Miami*. It included the *Milhaus Museum* in *Boca Raton*. This place is in the same league as *San Sylmar* and *Jasper San Felipo's*. **Dave Wickerham** played the custom 4/80 Walker electronic theatre organ which was very nice. He then played the former **Rudolph Wurlitzer** residence organ, which was gorgeous. Our return was along 'Alligator Alley,' a 76-mile long stretch of freeway with only one interchange. It runs through the north edge of the everglades. As we approached the hotel on this last night of a lovely convention, we could look down the street and see the flashing vertical sign on the *Tampa Theatre* wishing us a fond farewell.



Review by
Art and Evelyn
Woodworth



EDITOR'S RAVINGS

In our January issue, I talked about *nonsense songs*. Nobody complained, so I'm going to go out on a limb again. This month I want to talk about a favorite frivolous subject, *commercial jingles*.

Since I was a youngster just learning the piano, I have been intrigued by the use of short, snappy melodies and 'catchy' lyrics in radio, and later, TV commercials. As you may know, these are referred to in the trade as *jingles*.

When a jingle gets into my head, I can't seem to eradicate it until I've tried to pick out the melody on a piano or organ keyboard.

Recently I've been obsessed with the jingle used on the old *Gillette Cavalcade of Sports* radio show ("*Look Sharp * ... Feel Sharp * ... Be Sharp! * ...*") - how many of you remember it, from the 1950's? It used a gong on the afterbeat, after each of those three phrases.

When I did some research on the web, I found a lot of others, many of them well documented as to their origins, composers and copyrights.

Here are a few that I remember well (listed chronologically):

In my birth year (1929), General Mills had new lyrics written for a 1919 song called *Jazz Baby* and it became -- *Have You Tried Wheaties?* ("*...It's Whole Wheat With All of the Bran*").

Moving right along to 1934, a very

simple chromatic progression was given alphabetical lyrics to open the *Jack Benny* radio show with "*J-E-L-L-O*".

1939 saw the adaptation of an 18th century hunting song (!) as *Pepsi Cola Hits The Spot* ("*12 Full Ounces, That's A Lot*") which was recorded in 55 different languages!

I also remember a local San Diego adaptation of that one into a political jingle around the time of World War II: "*Charlie Fletcher is the one, We should send to Washington, Twice as good as Ezak too, Charlie Fletcher is the Man For You!*"

This saga of 'jingles' will continue in the next issue, picking up as WWII ended.

OTHER VENUES

Angelino's, 3/13 Wurlitzer, 3132 Williams Rd, San Jose, CA. Fridays & Saturdays, 6 to 9 p.m. **Dean Cook**. (408) 243-6095. *The blower is now repaired.*

Bella Roma Pizza, 3/16 Wurlitzer, 4040 Alhambra Ave., Martinex, CA. **Dave Moreno, Bob Reichert or Kevin King** at the console. (925) 228-4935.

Castro Theatre, 4/22 Wurlitzer, 429 Castro St., SF, CA. Intermission music played daily by **David Hegarty, Warren Lubich, Mark Putterbaugh or Harry Garland**. (415) 621-6120. <www.castrotheatre.com>

Grand Lake Theatre, 3/18 Wurlitzer, 3200 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA. Intermission music: **Warren Lubich** (Fridays) & **Kevin King** (Saturdays). (510) 452-3556.

Palace of the Legion of Honor, 4/63 E. M. Skinner, Lincoln Park, San Francisco Presidio. Saturdays and Sundays from 4:00 to 4:45 PM. Free after museum admission. **David Hegarty** plays an *Organ Pops Concert* on some weekends, other artists play classical concerts on other weekends. (415) 750-3600. <www.legionofhonor.org>

Paramount Theatre, 4/26 Wurlitzer, 2025 Broadway, Oakland, CA. Public tours on first and third Saturdays of month at 10 a.m. (510) 465-6400.

Stanford Theatre, 3/21 Wurlitzer, 221 University Ave, Palo Alto, CA. Silent films with organ accompaniment by various artists. See Upcoming Events. (650) 324 - 3700. <www.stanfordtheatre.org>

Towe Auto Museum, 3/15 Wurlitzer, 2200 Front St., Sacramento, CA. Free Sunday concerts with Museum Admission (exceptions, Sierra Chapter concerts). <www.sierrachapterATOS.org>

Visalia Fox Theatre, 4/22 Wurlitzer, 300 W. Main St., Visalia, CA. (559) 625-1FOX (1369).



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NOR-CAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, Inc.

A Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

ATOS is dedicated to promoting the tradition of the theatre pipe organ and public understanding and appreciation of the instrument and its music, and shall aid in any way possible the preservation of theatre organs through rehabilitation of instruments and fostering the arts of playing, building, voicing and maintenance. If you would like to join us, please write or call: **Mr. Neal R. Wood at (415)861-7082 <nealwood@pacbell.net> , PO Box 27238, Oakland, California 94602-0438.**

Your Name: _____ Your Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Occupation: _____

Dues are \$40 National ATOS and \$20 Nor-Cal (\$60 total) per year. Spouse and children living at home may be included in your membership. We hope you will join us to help preserve and enjoy these great instruments.