

The WINDSHEET

ATOS
NOR-CAL
Theatre Organ Society

DECEMBER 1985

NOR-CAL GIVEN TOLEDO PARAMOUNT PUBLIX I BY GARY BROOKINS!



WURLITZER OPUS 2006

CHAIRMAN
Lowell B. Wendell
1632 Orchard Way
Pleasanton, CA 94566
415/846-3496

VICE CHAIRMAN
Harold Soderstrom
3770 Northridge Drive
Concord, CA 94518
415/689-2357

SECRETARY
Arthur J. Woodworth
600 Coventry Road
Kensington, CA 94707
415/524-7452

MEMBERSHIP SECY.
Jack H. O'Neill
P.O. Box 2741
Oakland, CA 94602
415/632-9177

TREASURER
Edward G. Nelson
1695 Candelerio Court
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
415/937-8194

EDITOR
Bert Atwood
9350 Konocti Bay Rd.
Kelseyville, CA 95451

ORGAN NEWS

The headline tells it all. After approximately 30 years of existence as a chapter of ATOS, Nor-Cal has its own four-manual Wurlitzer! As we have mentioned before, several years of legal preparation were necessary before Nor-Cal attained charitable trust status. Several Chapter chairmen and members labored over the years on this task. Simultaneously, the organ committee sought an organ and a prospective donor. The acquisition of this instrument must however be credited to Chairman Lowell Wendell, who read the somewhat ambiguous original advertisement for it in THEATRE ORGAN, took the time to investigate and sweated through six months of unnerving waiting and negotiation prior to receiving a call from the donor, Mr. Gary J. Brookins of Fairview Park, Ohio, who on December 2 informed Nor-Cal that he had selected it from among a dozen and a half applicants to be given the organ. At this writing, final paperwork is in the making, and plans for transportation of the organ from Ohio to California are still being formulated. More information about the shipment of the organ and the organ committee's preliminary ideas for its installation in the Berkeley Community Theatre will be available at the annual membership meeting.

DECEMBER PROGRAM CHANGED

LEE LEES will present a program for us on the Nor-Cal Rodgers 33-E, on December 15 at 2 p.m., at the Berkeley Community Theatre, 1930 Allston Way, Berkeley. The Annual Membership meeting will follow the music program and open console will be available after the annual meeting.

Lee Lees began with a solid background in classical piano and organ. At 16 she was already involved in playing organ for church services. At one time she was demonstrating pianos and Hammonds for Sherman Clay and playing in the sheet music department of Capwells in the same building. Her employers suggested that she broaden her exposure to popular music and so she studied the Hammond organ with Hal Shutz. Lee played eight years at the Sea Wolf restaurant at Jack London Square and 8½ years at the San Francisco Presidio Officer's Club. She now concertizes, playing organ in duo with Eunice Steel on piano. She also plays casuals and teaches. We welcome Lee in her first appearance for Nor-Cal.

To reach the Berkeley Community Theatre:

VIA BART, exit at the Berkeley station on Shattuck between Center and Allston. Walk 1/2 block south to Allston, one block west to Milvia. The theatre is then ahead on your left—a large white auditorium bounded on the east by Milvia Street and on the north by Allston Way.

DRIVING SOUTH ON I-80, exit at University Avenue and drive east 16 blocks to Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Drive, turn south and go three blocks, turn east on Allston. The theatre will be on your right as you face east on All-

ston. Free parking is available on the streets on Sunday. Paid parking is available in a garage on Bancroft Way, on the east side of the Berkeley High School campus, which interrupts Bancroft Way.

DRIVING NORTH ON I-80, exit on Ashby Avenue and drive east approximately one mile. Turn north on Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Drive, and go 12 blocks (counting on the right hand side) and turn right on Allston Way.

BRUNCH CANCELLED — PLEASE TAKE NOTE

The Christmas brunch originally scheduled for 11 a.m. is cancelled. The caterers required a minimum of 60 people. As of the December 1 deadline for reservations, only 44 reservations were received. The money received for brunch tickets was returned to the people who bought tickets.

JANUARY CONCERT

The next Nor-Cal meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 26.

NOR-CAL NOVEMBER CONCERT REVIEW — Jim Riggs

As many Nor-Cal members will recall, our November 1984 concert featured Jim Riggs playing the final concert for the closing of the Avenue Theatre on Jeff Hansen's fantastic 3/14 Wurlitzer. This concert was recorded by KQED/FM and aired on New Year's Day, 1985. Since then, Nor-Cal has experienced a lot of good and bad things—the month of November 1985 brought one of each—I'll let Bert tell you all about the disaster (although I would like to have said a few things about it myself since I think Lyn Larsen is one of the finest people I have had the honor to meet).

But, I am thankful to be reviewing a concert by the person who opened the magical door to theatre organ for me and someone who has made it on his own without hurting anyone else—namely, Jim Riggs. On Sunday November 17 at 11 a.m. Jim salvaged the "Lost Weekend" by making us forget all about the "grand slam" as he brought up Ernie Wilson's 3/13 Grand Lake Wurlitzer console. The organ was installed in 1981 and had its premier performance at the 1983 ATOS National Convention.

Jim started with "Livin' In The Sunlight, Lovin' In The Moonlight" and went on to "It Might As Well Be Spring," which he played in a very slow, soft, relaxing manner. He then went on to an upbeat swing piece—"I've Got A Feeling I'm Falling" by "Fats" Waller. Jim then charmed the audience with "Deep Night" which he phrased in a manner reminiscent of graceful ballroom dancing. Another hot number was a tune by Richard Rodgers—part of the score to "Victory At Sea" called "No Other Love." Jim took the audience along on this voyage by making us feel like we were on a ship rolling up and down with the waves of the sea. A favorite of mine is the Sidney Torch version of "The 12th

The rest of the issue was missing.