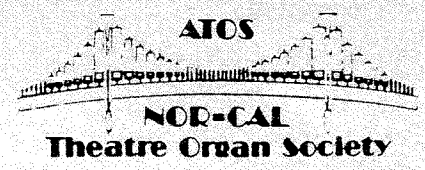


Wurlit Bench 28 1/2 high

# The WINDSHEET

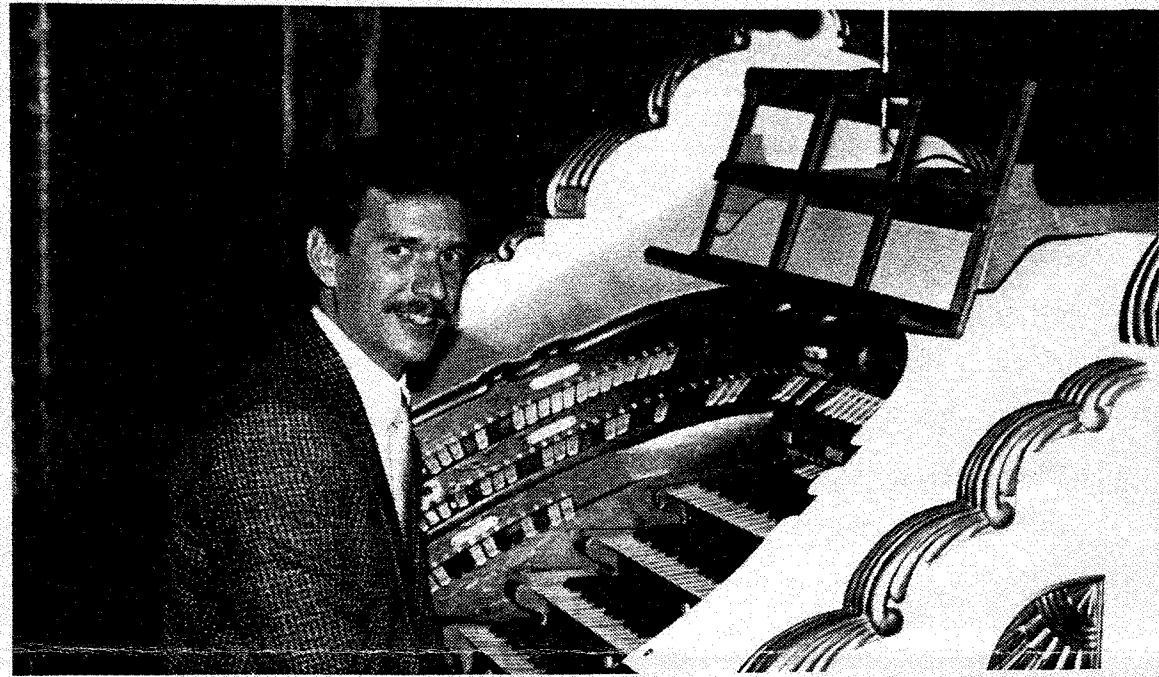


NEWSLETTER OF NOR-CAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

JANUARY 1990

## KEVIN KING

in concert at the  
Bella Roma Restaurant  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY, 4  
at 1 p.m.



KEVIN KING will present a concert for us on Sunday, February 4 on the 3-manual Wurlitzer at the Bella Roma Restaurant, 4040 Alhambra Ave., Martinez. The restaurant will open at 1 p.m. for food service. The varied menu includes pizza, sandwiches, and other items. The concert will begin at 1 p.m.

Kevin is featured Friday and Saturday evenings at the Bella Roma. He also plays relief at the Castro and Stanford Theatres, and has been featured in concert for other ATOS chapters in California and Colorado. Kevin and his parents have long been members of Nor-Cal. A skilled technician as well as a talented organist, Kevin has installed all

the metal winding at the Stanford Theatre and is completing the metal winding for the Nor-Cal Chapter Wurlitzer in Berkeley, where he has been an active member of the installation for the past three years.

To reach the Bella Roma from Interstate 80, exit at Route 4, near Hercules and Pinole. Travel east on Route 4 approximately five miles. Exit on Alhambra Ave. Drive north about one-half mile. The Bella Roma is on the west side of the street. From Interstate 680, northwest of Concord, exit on Route 4 westbound. Drive about 1 1/2 miles and exit on Alhambra. Drive north as above. Telephone: 415-228-4935. We would once again like to thank Sher Ciaramitaro, owner of the Bella Roma, for her kind hospitality.

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# October Board Meeting

The meeting was held at the home of Treasurer, Kevin King, 3106 Sheffield Avenue, Oakland, 94602. Directors present were Chairman, Harold Soderstrom, Vice-Chairman Rudy Frey, Treasurer, Kevin King, Janice Wendell, Carl Pinnow, Jim Jeskey, Bill Schlotter, and Doris Taylor. Secretary Art Woodworth was excused. Visitors present were: Membership Secretary John O'Neill, Marilyn Pinnow, Technical Committee Chairman Lowell Wendell, Westley Cavett and David Banks.

Reading of the minutes of the August meeting was deferred until the December meeting. The Treasurer's report was accepted. ATOS National President John Ledwon sent a letter stating that ATOS has 16 weeks worth of recorded organ music suitable for radio broadcasting. He asks if any chapters have local stations which would put it on the air. Also, copies of the Theatre Organ Journal are available to be placed in public libraries. National is also requesting names of any persons interested in running for the National Board. Contact Jack Moelman with the names of qualified candidates.

There was considerable discussion regarding the 1991 Convention. Following discussion, it was voted to not join the Pacific Council of Organ Clubs. The Organ Technical Committee expects to have all 33 ranks of the Chapter pipe organ playing for the Convention. The Solo Chamber winding and wiring are done, the Main Chamber is 80 per cent done, and erection is well underway in the "Perfound" Chamber. The Computer Relay is on hand and final wiring to provide power to it is in process. Ed Stout, Dick Taylor and Clark Wilson will tonally finish the organ starting after Easter 1991.

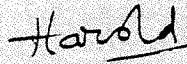
## December Directors Meeting

The meeting was held at Mr. Q's Restaurant in Tiburon. Directors present were Rudy Frey, Jim Jeskey, Carl Pinnow, Bill Schlotter, Harold Soderstrom, Janice Wendell, Art Woodworth, and Past Chairman Lowell Wendell. Directors Kevin King and Doris Taylor were excused. Also present were Jack O'Neill, Marilyn Pinnow, and Mary Anne Soderstrom.

Minutes of the October 13 meeting were approved as corrected (to indicate tonal finishing of the Chapter pipe organ will start after Easter 1990, not 1991). Details of the 1991 Convention were discussed. It was agreed that the speakers for the Rodgers electronic organ in the Berkeley Community Theatre would be removed from the tone chute areas after the December 10 Annual Membership Meeting due to the difficulty in removing them later (the pipe organ installation will make removal increasingly difficult).

## Chairman's Corner

With this column I say "Farewell" as outgoing Chairman. I've grown a lot. This has been a new experience. The Organ is nearing completion. Thanks for your support.



## Convention 1991 News

The 1991 ATOS National Convention Chapter Planning Committee will have it's next meeting on April 7, 1990 at 7 p.m. at the home of Lowell and Jan Wendell.

We still need members who are willing to head up sub-committees for publicity and the Record Shop. We also still need additional people to assist in all of the other areas such as transportation, packets, and registration! Please pitch in to help make the 1991 Convention a great success.

## Editor's Desk

Next *Windsheet* deadline is Friday, February 9, 1990.



## Organ Ciphers, One Liners, Etc.

**Joyce Henningsen** of Ye Olde Pizza Joint (wife of Carsten) underwent spinal surgery January 2. No visitors or flowers, please. All of us in Nor-Cal wish her a speedy recovery.

**Bill Elliot**, Empress Theater owner underwent colon surgery last December and is recovering at home. We wish him a speedy recovery.

**Post Earthquake Fate of Empress Theatre:** Bill forwarded the following to the Editor on January 2, 1990.

"To give an earthquake update on the Empress Theatre, Vallejo, for the Nor-Cal Theatre Organ Society, there was no physical damage to the theatre building and only a couple of the taller chest pipes were out of vertical. However, the fallout from Santa Cruz and San Francisco unreinforced masonry buildings, has created a frantic situation in the Vallejo Building Department. A 3-year old State law concerning reinforcing brick walls is first priority. The Empress is an 80 year old building of brick and will require an engineering study with complete plans for reinforcement. A plywood diaphragm on the roof and under the main floor tied to the walls and a steel frame inside the building bracing the walls and trusses is required. Rough estimates look like \$200,000. Unless the building can be gotten into a nonprofit organization and a grant obtained for the repairs, it appears at this time, the '89 Earthquake has wiped out the Empress (the City will require demolition) just as her 3 manual, 12 rank Wurlitzer was getting in top form. If any of the membership have ideas on how to salvage the theatre, please let me know."

**Ted and Helen Lloyd**, our most distant members (they live in Australia), send Best Wishes & Seasons Greetings to all Nor-Cal members.

Last month we reported the marriage of **David Reese** (of Bella Roma fame) and **Marsha Bergstrom**. Shortly after, we learned that Dave's mother **Armanda (Army) Walker** and **Frank Warden** were married a scant three days later (12/12/89). Congratulations to Frank and Best Wishes to Army!

Former Nor-Cal member **Martin Lilley** of Fremont, for the last few years has concentrated his interest in player pianos. He owns five grand pianos, an upright, a Foresetter, and a Robert-Morton Pipe Organ. He has just purchased a complete Father Willis 3/28 tracker action church organ (manufactured before the turn of the century in England, by one of that country's premier builders) which will soon be removed from the church in which it was originally installed and shipped to Fremont! The organ features four divisions, decorated facade pipes, 3 sets of 16's in the pedal division, and for a low pressure organ, some really powerful solo reeds. For those not familiar with tracker organs, the only electrical component is the blower motor! All controls between the console and the speaking pipes are mechanically connected. Only the Solo Division is in a swell box. Martin plans a 40x40 addition to his house to contain the organ.

## Record Review

Congratulations to **Jim Riggs** and the *Oakland Paramount* on the release of a really fine cassette tape entitled **Paramount on Parade**, dedicated to the memory of Jim Rosevears. With jacket notes and color photographs by Steve Levin, the appearance of the cassette is one of the nicest we've seen. The music included is very well played and the amount is generous. The quality of the digital recording by Dick Clay, combined with the acoustics of the Oakland Paramount make this a must buy! We'll let you discover the selections for yourself! --



# OPENING NIGHT AT THE STANFORD THEATRE



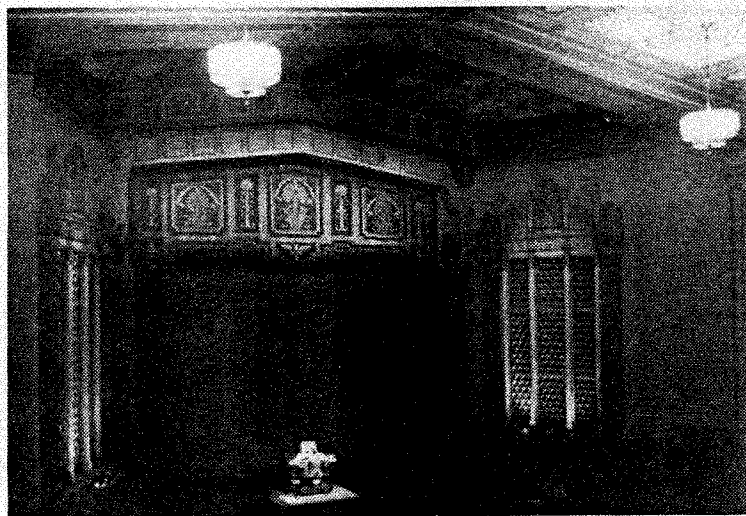
Opening Night, University Avenue

Vintage Packards, Rolls-Royces and model Ts were parked in front of the Stanford Theatre on Friday, December 8 in downtown Palo Alto while a searchlight's beam pierced the foggy night, 20th Century Fox style. The occasion — the opening night of the refurbished Stanford Theatre, a 1925 movie palace that two years ago was almost gutted to house another cluster of boutiques on University Avenue. Fortunately, David Packard, who heads the Packard foundation, saw the potential of the Stanford Theatre as a showcase for the golden age of Hollywood movies, to be seen by an appreciative audience in the proper surroundings. As a result of discussions with Nor-Cal, the "proper surroundings" now include the beautifully restored, and enlarged WurliTzer theatre pipe organ originally housed in Grauman's Chinese theatre in Hollywood. All of this has taken a lot of time, energy and money—several million dollars in fact—but the Bay Area is now blessed with a form of entertainment that should be the envy of the nation.

First the building. The 1500 seat auditorium and large lobby have been painstakingly restored to their original 1920s appearance. With only one black and white newspaper picture of the auditorium to work from, the restorers managed to track down the company that did the interior decoration back in 1925 still operating in Los Angeles. To their joy, they located the original water color sketches for both the auditorium and lobby designs. Surviving plaster work and other features were restored and fittings that had been removed over the years, such as light fixtures, were duplicated. Seats were recovered in expensive red plush and audiences now walk to their seat on deep pile Persian style carpet rewoven to the original design.

Secondly, the visual entertainment. The Stanford Theatre Foundation is dedicated to showing the best of Hollywood movies from the 1920s through the 1940s in collaboration with the UCLA Film Archives in Los Angeles. Not only does one get to see the movies in the right surroundings, but UCLA Film Archives devotes a lot of its resources to restoring film prints and preserving them—usually by transferring them to safety base film. On opening night we saw a beautifully restored Technicolor print of "The Wizard of Oz" showing details completely missing from the usual videocassette version. Movies will be shown on a repertory basis, most programs being screened two nights in a row. You can get a preview of upcoming titles by being on the Stanford Theatre Foundation's mailing list (call 415-324-3700).

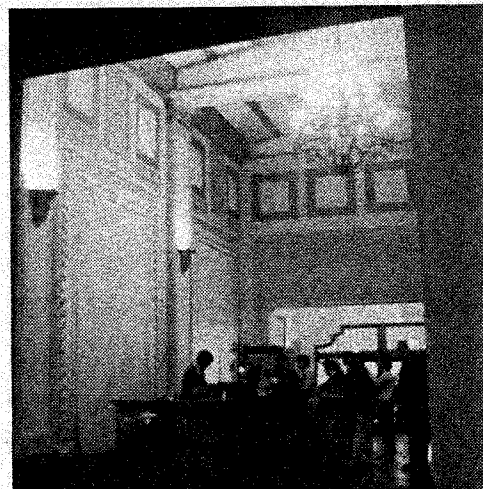
Last but not least the theatre organ. Nor-Cal members, principally Dave Banks, Carl Pinnow, Cliff Luscher and Kevin King in collaboration with David Packard pulled off a triumph of rebuilding and restoration of the Grauman's Theatre WurliTzer. Its three manuals now operate a total of 22 ranks, two Skinner ranks having been added to the original 19 WurliTzer ones. Although the organ was operational on opening night as far as direct, manual operation of the stops was concerned, Mr. Packard is in the process of preparing a computer program to control a combination preset system to bring the instrument up to concert standard. Tom Hazleton entertained us on opening night in true moviegoers' style with selections of hit melodies from the 1920s and 1930s for nearly an hour before the program began and by request after the movie had been shown. To my ears, the sound was rich and totally consistent wherever you sat in the theatre. Hopefully, with the completion of the computerized combination preset system, the Stanford Theatre will become a very popular theatre organ concert venue where it is sorely needed in the West Bay. In the meantime, you can catch some very entertaining theatre pipe organ music at all the evening performances, including occasional accompaniments to silent movies. Artists who have already played at the Stanford include Bob Vaughn, Jim Riggs, Larry Vannucci, Kevin King, Dennis Scott and Chris Elliott.



The Auditorium

If you've given up going to the movies offered by your local cineplex with its "shovel 'em in and shovel 'em out" treatment of its audiences, the Stanford Theatre will come as a very pleasant surprise. When you consider the extras the Stanford Theatre offers, at \$5.00 a ticket (\$3 for seniors or children), it costs no more than a ticket to one of those burlap lined, 100-seat concrete boxes.

(contributed by Dick Woodman)



The Lobby



# BAY AREA ORGAN SCENE

## CONTINUING EVENTS

**Berkeley Community Theatre**, 1930 Allston Way, Berkeley — Call 415-644-2707 for work party information on the Nor-Cal Wurlitzer.  
**Castro Theatre**, 429 Castro at Market, San Francisco, 4/21 Wurlitzer played nightly. Call theatre for times. 415-621-6120.  
**Grand Lake Theatre**, Grand Avenue near Lake Merritt, Oakland, 3/13 Wurlitzer played Thur-Sat. Call theatre, 415-465-7586 for times.  
**Stanford Theatre**, 221 University Ave., Palo Alto. 3/22 Wurlitzer played nightly. Call theatre 415-324-3700 for times.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### January 26 — Dennis James at the Castro

Program presented by the Pacific Film Archive is an accompaniment of the movie *Intolerance* on the Wurlitzer. The Museum of Modern Art's restored print will be screened at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$8, available from the Pacific Film Archive, 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley, CA 94720; 415-642-1412; also from the Castro Theatre.

### January 27 — Hector Olivera in Concert at the Oakland Paramount

Hector is an Argentinian musical prodigy who started his musical career as a child. Born in Buenos Aires, he started playing the pipe organ at the age of three, was appointed organist for the Church of the Immaculate Conception two years later, and by the time he was six, had entered the Buenos Aires Conservatory to study harmony, counterpoint and the fugue. At age 12, he became the youngest student to enter the University of Buenos Aires and at 18, was appointed head of the Organ Department. Now residing in the U.S., he has been equally hailed for his recent musical accomplishments, including several overseas tours and fifteen recordings. Tickets \$6-\$11. Call the Paramount Box Office at 465-6400.

### February 4 — Kevin King at the Bella Roma (see lead article)

### February 9 — Windsheet Deadline

### February 18 — David Parson at Palo Alto Methodist Church

David Parson accompanies Cecil B. DeMille's class film *The Ten Commandments* (1923) at the First United Methodist Church, Hamilton at Webster, Palo Alto, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$8.

### March 3 — Lee Erwin at the Oakland Paramount

Lee Erwin accompanies the movie *The Eagle* with Rudolph Valentino, beginning at 8:00 p.m. Lee is New York's renowned theatre organist, arranger and composer. He has written original scores for over 80 silent films, including all the films of Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin and D.W. Griffith. This will be his third appearance at the Paramount.

Valentino's 1925 performance as a Russian cossack lieutenant who masquerades as a do-gooder bandit to avenge his father's death is hailed by critics as one of his most memorable. Vilma Banky and

Louise Dresser co-star and fall victim to Valentino's swoon-inducing charms. Tickets \$6-11 from the Paramount Box Office, 465-6400.

## Items for Sale

Note: There is no charge for "For Sale" ads in the Windsheet. Send your copy to Bert Atwood, Editor. Note copy deadline above.

ROBERT MORTON 3-manual, 13 ranks (approx) pipe organ with Spencer Orgblo 5 hp 220v 3 ph blower, tremis, regulators, approx 1300 pipes; HOLZINGER 2-manual 6 rank church organ, 2 wind-chests, 3 offsets, direct electric action electro-mechanical stop capture, Meidenger 115v blower; MARR & COLTON MARIMBA 49 note; STORY & CLARK reed pump organ. Call Dan Lovett 415-837-7548.

DEVTRONICS — all audio circuits for 4/20 Publix organ. Excellent condition. Cost over \$7,000. Sacrifice for \$3,000. Additional circuitry needed to complete the project is available from Devtronics. WURLITZER — 4/20 relay with pizzicato, excellent condition certified by Richard Villemin. Best offer or will donate to worthy organization. 707-277-7208.



*The Song Is Ended But The Melody Lingers On*

**ELOISE ROWAN DILLING**



Former San Mateo resident Eloise Rowan Dilling, a professional organist and longtime music teacher died last month in Palm Desert.

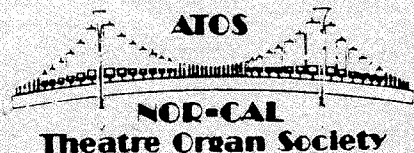
Mrs. Dilling was a theatre organist during the 1920s and 30s and later worked as an NBC staff organist in Minneapolis and Chicago. After coming to the Bay Area in 1945, she played for local and network TV. She lived in San Mateo with her family until 1975, when she retired to Palm Desert, continuing to teach and be active with ATOS of Southern California.

A native of Winona, Minnesota, she studied at the Dakota Conservatory of Music in Fargo, N.D., at Northwestern University and Minnesota University (where she was a member of Kappa Phi).

Survivors include her husband Charles, son Charles of Palm Desert, a daughter, Sister Margaret Walker Dilling, and three grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the endowment fund of The Religious of the Sacred Heart, Oakwood Infirmary, 140 Valparaiso Avenue, Atherton 94027-4458.

Ray Taylor notes that Eloise became the organist at the Minnesota Theatre when the theatre's organist, Eddie Dunnstetter, Eloise's teacher left for California. Ray recently saw Eloise in Los Angeles and offered her an invitation to come and play at the Castro. Ray thought that those who knew Eloise in the 50s and 60s when she was active in Nor-Cal might be interested to learn of her passing.



## Membership Application

### NOR-CAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Dues, Chapter & National — \$40.00

Spouse and children under 18 living at home may be included in this membership.

Send to: Jack H. O'Neill, Membership Secy.  
 P. O. Box 2741 Oakland, CA 94602  
 415/632-9177