

The WINDSHEET

Published by
NOR-CAL TOS

MARCH 1983



MARCH MEETING

Sunday, March 13, 2 p.m. at Capn's Galley Pizza & Pipes, 190 South Bascom Avenue at Hamilton, Campbell. 408/371-5000.

BILL LANGFORD will play for us. Members of more than two or three years need no introduction to this organist. His name is synonymous with theatre organ in the pizza restaurant era. He is the first famous pizza organist. Since Bill played at Ye Olde Pizza Joynt in San Lorenzo for over 18 years, trying to tell Nor-Cal members something they don't know about him is about equivalent to trying to tell Robert Hope-Jones about theatre organs—but for those still to become his fans . . .

Originally from Los Angeles, Bill played theatre organ on the radio there and had his own program. He lived and played in the entertainment field in Denver, eventually settling in the Bay Area, where he originally played an electronic organ at the Southern Restaurant in South San Francisco. A couple of years ago, Bill accepted the featured organist position at the largest pizza restaurant, the Cardinal Music Palace, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. On Good Friday last year, over 12 inches of snow fell in Fort Wayne! Bill kept a stiff (maybe it was frozen) upper lip about the weather

back east, but didn't wait for another Easter weekend, before returning to California! He has toured for electronic organ manufacturers and on the theatre organ concert circuit, playing in Seattle, the Niagara Frontier, Rochester, and Toronto, most recently playing at Benson High School for Oregon Chapter. Three records are to his credit.

Bill has expressed a desire to play the Buddy Cole (Campbell Pizza & Pipes) organ for nostalgic reasons. We invite you to a nostalgic afternoon reunion with Bill Langford!

FEBRUARY CONCERT

Clark Wilson played for us February 20 at Pizza & Pipes in Redwood City. This friendly young man had a program that was not only interesting but also refreshing. He is an organist who showed off some of the softer stops of the 4/23 Wurlitzer in his registrations. He opened his concert with "The Deadwood Stage" followed by a "georgeous" rendition of "Let's Face The Music and Dance."

Clark also played some classical pieces. His opera medley consisted of music from Cavalleria Rusticana, La Bohème, Faust and Aida tied together with harmonious segues. Clark's playing of "Jeanne" was unique and unpredictable. He played the melody using tibia and vox, then he began changing the key in an effortless meandering style to an unanticipated key. He played a few bars then changed the key again, maintaining melody and tempo all the while. It was lovely.

During intermission Convention Chairman Dan Lovett gave us an update on this year's convention progress. Wilson returned to the bench and opened the second half of the concert with the theme from the television show "Mannix." He played "Valencia" starting in the style of Jesse Crawford and finishing it in the style of Eddie Dunstetter. We were treated to two classical pieces: "Rondo in G" by John Bull and "Danse Macabre" by Saint-Saens in which Clark did some intricate two-foot pedaling.

He played a beautiful ballad style arrangement of Irving Berlin's "Always" including the verse. His encore was "Granada" with a lot more foot work, then he doubled the time and used many remarkable xylophone arpeggios to conclude his concert. WOW!

— Ed Mullins

APRIL CONCERT

Gary Konas will play for us at Redwood City Pizza & Pipes, 821 Winslow Street, Redwood City, April 17 at 2 p.m.

VOX RUDY

There is no question that interest in the National Convention we are hosting in July has spurred our membership to a new high for the second year in a row. Hosting a convention is a work-filled undertaking on one hand, but a most rewarding endeavor on the other. All too seldom we have the opportunity to share with our friends from throughout the organ world the theatres, instruments and sights of our own locality. Hosting a convention is one of the highlights in the life of a chapter.

Ray Taylor and some of our other members remember when a national convention could be held in a living room equipped with a home installation. ATOS has grown (thank heavens) to the point that it now takes three times as many people just to host the convention as would have fitted into those living rooms where the first conventions were held! Our Convention Committee continues to pick up momentum, additional members are becoming involved. We have a '83 Chairman and committee separate from the chapter chairman and board so that both the special needs of the convention and the normal needs of the chapter can be met.

With the incumbent Nor-Cal officers retained and the emphasis on the convention continuing this year, there has been little said here about chapter goals because the basic ones haven't changed. But perhaps it's time, if only for the newcomers, to reiterate them now. I'm put in mind of the need to do this by the letters and comments of our members, all of which I first thought to answer individually. Perhaps they may be more beneficially answered here, since whether expressing pleasure, displeasure or merely relating information, all indicate an interest in and concern for the chapter, and contribute to its welfare.

I would like to thank Virginia Cheshire, James R. Combs, Gayle Ellis, Jan Feller and Gerard Toorenaar for taking the time to write or call with suggestions and information. Comments received indicate an interest in varying the program locations, providing more social interaction within the club, providing a young artist competition, and obtaining a chapter organ. To this list should be added, producing paid public concerts.

At the present time, the chapter has only two sources of income: dues and donations. We will continue to receive few donations and no organ, until our tax status is changed (one of my projects) to allow tax deductions for our donors. While on this subject, our special thanks and gratitude to Gordon B. Walker for his donation to our organ fund.

We will, when possible, meet at various locations. This month we will be in San Jose. Our first meeting this year was in Oakland. We are hoping to provide three meetings in theatres in the first half of this year. The Paramount meeting was the first. Having time to socialize and sponsoring artist competitions are dependent on availability of funds and meeting time. While meeting in public places is easy and convenient, involving no maintenance or preparation on our part, we cannot come and go as we please. This

is in no way intended to minimize our gratitude to our hosts who are the Bay Area pizza restaurant owners and theatre operators. It is merely a reason for desiring our own chapter organ and a place to install it.

Obtaining our own instrument is our basic long term goal. Owning an organ would not eliminate our patronage of local pizza restaurants or theatres, to whom we are indebted for keeping theatre organ alive these many years. It would give those of us inclined toward mechanical work the opportunity to practice and eventually would provide our musically-talented members more open console time. Properly located, it would give us a place to socialize, hold public concerts, and allow us to fulfill our purpose of educating the public about theatre organs.

I would like to acknowledge the participation of another member, Jerry Nagano, and express our appreciation to him for recommending Clark Wilson and co-ordinating his trip here.



CONVENTION '83 CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The first of July is looking closer than ever. There are lots of things that have to happen between now and then, but lots has been accomplished already and we have a capable group of people working away on their tasks. I'm pleased with our arrangements in general and fairly comfortable with our budget projections. We just gotta attract 500+ attendees to the Convention.

Arrangements have been made with UNITED AIRLINES to provide a 30% discount on their R/T full coach rates to San Francisco for ATOS Convention attendees who make their reservations through the toll-free 800-521-0810 phone number and using account number 5314. (In Michigan: 800-482-0243) United will also provide convention information to anyone calling these numbers.

The masters, artwork, copy and photos for our major publicity spread in the March/April issue of THEATRE ORGAN have been completed and delivered to the publisher, and should "hit-the-stands" around April 1. We are working on a separate "early-bird" air mail to out-of-states members to compensate for the traditional slow overseas delivery of the magazine.

Letters have been sent to manufacturers of electronic organs inviting them to have demo rooms in the hotel during the convention, and to artists and others who might wish to market records, books, souvenirs, etc., through our Record Shop.

Dick Clay has kindly offered our Registrar the use of his computer to prepare the registration labels, name badges and for the pre-convention registration bookkeeping.

Our next Convention '83 Committee meeting will be March 26 and at that time we will want to review our budget projections, search for oversights and make the necessary corrections and revisions. We have yet a number of details to work out regarding concerts which will be open to the public.



EDITOR'S DESK

Hi! As announced last month, I'm giving editorship a try. In addition to on-the-job training from Bob Gilbert and Rudy Frey, I'll need all the support I can get from the entire membership. Please forward any news items, classifieds, concert info, etc., to me. I plan to announce the deadlines for each WINDSHEET. Material for the April issue should be in my hands by April 1 (no fooling).

I get to travel a bit in my work and just spent two weeks in the Southwest. I stayed two nights at the Classic Hotel in Albuquerque and got a close look at the 5-manual Kimball from the Roxy Theatre in New York City. It's gorgeous! Unfortunately it's only played Sunday mornings, so I didn't get to hear it. Next, on to the Scampi's Organ Palace in Austin, Texas. The regular organist at this pizza parlor had had all four wisdom teeth pulled that day and was not enjoying playing that evening. He allowed me to play the 3/11 Robert-Morton during intermission. Then he decided I was having a lot more fun at it than he was, so after a half hour he went home and I continued for another 1½ hours. My lucky day! Finally, on to Phoenix. The night I visited the Organ Stop Pizza Parlor, Dave Wickersham from the Tucson Organ Stop was subbing for Walt Strony. It was the first time I'd heard him play and I think he's great!

Once again, as your new Editor, I need your help—so keep those cards and letters coming folks! And remember the April 1 deadline. Thanks.



NOR-CAL BOARD MEETING

The next meeting will be April 4, 1983, at the home of Art and Evelyn Woodworth, 1000 King Drive, El Cerrito, California. Any Nor-Cal member may attend, but please notify the Woodworths in advance so they may plan seating and refreshments accordingly. (415/524-7452)

ORGAN CIPHERS

You heard her here first department! — British ladies are invading California lately. Besides Queen Elizabeth, California is being visited by Pauline Dixon once again. Talk about the jet set! Pauline played a concert for Leisure World in the

Los Angeles area on March 1 and a concert for San Diego Chapter on March 5. She will be revisiting the Bay Area before continuing to the Northwest. (Pauline played for Nor-Cal November 21.)

John Seng appeared in concert at the Oakland Paramount for the second time on March 5. On this occasion, before a full house, he played the 4/27 Wurlitzer. It was a delightful evening. His program ranged the entire spectrum from a low down dirty "Birth of the Blues" to a delicate and lovely "Pavanne" by Fauré, with Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture," complete with bells and cannon booms and flashes for a climax. Well done, John!

Visitor from Toronto — We heard belatedly that Don Thompson played at Ye Olde Pizza Joynt March 4, 5 and 6. Sure wish we had known earlier. We're more than happy to publish such information. Depending on the particular date information is received, we can often publish it on short notice.

Those attending the Avenue Theatre Friday, March 4, were treated to a pre-show concert by Jim Riggs. He was formerly on the staff at the Avenue and now plays at Bill Brown's Organ Stop Pizza in Tucson.

BAY AREA ORGAN SCENE

CONTINUING EVENTS —

Castro Theatre, 429 Castro at Market, 4/13 Wurlitzer played nightly. Call for times, 415/621-6120.

Avenue Theatre, 2650 San Bruno Avenue, San Francisco, 3/15 Wurlitzer played Friday nights, 415/468-2636.

Redwood City Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway, Redwood City, Bob Vaughn playing the electronic organ, 415/369-2968. Call for dates. (March 16 at 7:30 p.m. is next.)

SPECIAL EVENTS

GRACE CATHEDRAL:

March 11, 12 at 8:00 p.m. \$5 donation. *King of Kings*, the silent movie, will be accompanied by JOHN FENSTERMAKER, Cathedral Organist.

March 27, 5:00 p.m. \$3 donation. Organ recital by JANET SATRE. This special Palm Sunday program will feature Dupre's Stations of the Cross.

April 17, 5:00 p.m. \$5 donation. Organ recital by SIMON PRESTON, Organist and Choirmaster of Westminster Abbey. His program includes Widor's Symphony No.5 as well as works of Bach and Mozart.

CASTRO THEATRE:

March 31, BOB VAUGHN.

April 16, 17, 19, 21-24. Matinee Film Festival with BOB VAUGHN accompanying newly restored prints of eight silents by German film maker Ernest Lubich (any relation to Warren?).

East Bay Home Organ Society Third Annual Organ Extravaganza **RUNNIN' WILD**, Sunday, May 22, at the Alameda High School Auditorium, 1:30-5:00 p.m. Donation \$6.00 in advance, \$7.00 at the door. Fund raiser for music scholarship. Artists and instruments: Dennis Awe—Lowery MX-1, Lyn Larsen—Allen 675 3-manual, Choy Lozaba—Kawai DX-1900, Bill Thomson—Yamaha 7000.

ITEMS FOR SALE

Brass Sax, 1916, silver plated, C melody, complete with original case, \$75. Mr. & Mrs. John D. Ellis. 344-0755.

Blower, 1½ hp, Albert L. Smith, 81 Devonshire Circle, San Carlos 94070. 415/592-2720. \$100 or best offer.

ATOS Publicity posters as pictured on the cover of **THEATRE ORGAN**, Aug./Sept., 1982. One dollar each, pick up at club meeting or pay extra for postage and handling. Contact Etta Nevins at 415/322-0673 (business phone).

Blue plastic Nor-Cal name tags are available from Superior Engraving, P.O. Box 32958, San Jose, CA 95152. Attn: Bill. Approximately \$2.50.

Book: "The Oakland Paramount." 90+ pages, 73 illus. in full color, 11 black and white illus., full color dust jacket, Only \$11.95 from the publisher, Lancaster-Miller Publishers, P.O. Box 1080, Berkeley, CA 94701, or from the Paramount Theatre Box Office.

ITEMS WANTED TO BUY

Wurlitzer 25-note chimes to go with my action. William Scott, 308 Sherman Drive, Scotts Valley, CA 95066. 408/438-3632. Also, will swap 18-note chime action for whatever.

EUROPEAN ORGAN TOURS

Interested in classical organ study tours in Europe? Two 18-day tours will be given in Holland and Belgium starting June 1 and September 27 and two in Germany and Austria starting August 2 and September 20. Call or write Dirk Bakhuizen c/o Emhage Travel, 5011 Twenty-Eighth Street S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49508. 616/957-1000 M-F 8:30-5:30. 616/245-3978 eves and weekends.

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NOR-CAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

NAME _____ SPOUSE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

OCCUPATION _____ PHONE _____ / _____

What kind of organ do you own? _____

Chapter dues \$12.00
National dues 20.00
\$32.00

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

Send to: Etta E. Nevins, Treasurer
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