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# The WINDSHEET



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 Newsletter of the NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY      BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE      www.norcaltos.org  
 PO Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625 510/644-2707      Allston Way betw'n Milvia St & MLK, Jr Way  
 July 2015



After an eight-year heroic battle with Melanoma, Bert Atwood passed away on June 16<sup>th</sup> at his lakefront home in Clearlake. He will be missed. He was a member of NorCal almost from its beginning.

Prior to his affiliation with NorCal, Bert acquired a large Robert Morton organ. He designed his beautiful Clearlake home with pipe chambers to accommodate the organ. Realizing the amount of labor and maintenance required for the organ, Bert opted to buy a four manual Allen organ and donated much of the Robert Morton to the Bob Hope Theatre in Stockton. Bert retained the percussions, traps, and swell shades which were added to the Allen.

Several organ work parties occurred over the years to improve upon an already wonderful organ installation. Bert and Ann were wonderful hosts.

Bert received treatment at UCSF in San Francisco. Many of those treatments were the beginnings of new successful treatments that are now common practice. His contribution has helped many lives. Unfortunately, the melanoma returned again and could not be cured. He died peacefully at home, surrounded by his family and friends. We will miss Bert, his limericks, his puns, and his ever-present friendship.

A celebration of his life was held at his home at Clearlake on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Many organ friends and friends of the Atwood family attended. A memorial was held on their dock. After the memorial, **Kevin King** played the organ.

We will miss you Bert.

— Neal Wood

## RICHARD HILLS CONCERT Sunday June 21, 2015 Art Woodworth

My thoughts on some of the selections - of course they were all excellent:

The score for "High Society" was written by **Cole Porter**. Richard's medley included "You're Sensational", "Well, Have You Ever", and "True Love".

"Cheeky Chappie" was a very British style tremolo-off novelty number with an infectious melody line. The "Mame" medley filled out the first half quite nicely, including the haunting "If He Walked Into My Life Again" and ending of course with "Mame."

The "Boots and Saddle" included short pieces of many familiar tunes from our American past ranging from "Home on the Range," to Cole Porter's "Don't Fence Me In."

"Shooting Star" was another lively British novelty number. The Irving Berlin medley included most of the Fred and Ginger numbers, such as "Let's Face the Music and Dance," and "The Piccolino." The medley also included "They Say That Falling in Love is Wonderful."

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After years of continuous use, these heaters and fans are breaking down, and the organ crew, lead by Bill Schlotter, have set to work repairing them – all in a day's work for maintaining an instrument such as ours.

It is with great sadness that we reflect on the passing of Bert Atwood Sr., who was a great friend to NorCal and to many of us, individually. He will be sorely missed, and our best wishes go out to his family and friends.

Best regards - Tom Madsen

## ATOS CONVENTION REPORT

ATOS President/CE Ken Double  
My goodness, what a week in Philadelphia and surrounding areas.

**Bob Dilworth** and his Convention Committee are to be congratulated for staging one of the more memorable ATOS Annual Conventions in a long time.

I hope you have had a chance to read the musings of **Josh Dill**, the new ATOS Youth Representative to the Board. His daily reports were beautifully written and captured the essence of each day's activities.

In summary, the BIG organs really delivered. *Longwood Gardens* and **Jonas Nordwall**; *Macy's/Wanamaker's* and **Peter Richard Conte**; all who performed (**David Peckham**, **Dave Wickerham**, **Hector Olivera**, **Richard Hills** and **Simon Gledhill**) at the 66-rank *Dickinson Kimball*; and **Steven Ball** in Atlantic City showed off the gargantuan instruments in the highest musical fashion.

The Wurlitzer at the *Colonial* proved to be a most worthy replacement for its predecessor, and was played with brilliance and energy by **Mark Herman**. Thanks to TOSDV, **Wayne Zimmerman**, **Jack Serdy**, **Grahame Davis** and **Walt Strony**, and all who made that concert, and the *Young Theatre Organists Competition* great highlights.

**John Baratta** at the *Grand* in East Greenville; **Don Kinnier** at the *Broadway* in Pitman; **Dick Smith** at the United States organ at the *Sunnybrook Ballroom*; simply everyone who had their mitts on an organ played magnificently for the convention.

There will be further reports in the coming days, and a complete review of the activities in the September-October issue of Theatre Organ.

Just more than 470 attended, and just more than 470 were thrilled to be there. It was a great convention, and now let the countdown to Cleveland and the Western Reserve convention begin!

--Ken Double

## Editor's Notes

When **Bert Atwood** put out the April 2015 Windsheet he commented that he was 'Back in the Saddle Again' as Editor of the Windsheet after 19 years. Little did he know that the Melanoma that he had fought for 8 years, and was considered cured, was even then making a dramatic comeback, and would take his life on June 16th.

NorCal lost far more than an editor. As you can read in the accompanying Obituary he was a friend, worker, organist, and contributor all rolled into one happy, friendly package. All of us will miss him greatly, and remember him well. As a result, I have stepped up to edit this Windsheet, but will turn it over to a new Editor, **Art Woodworth** in the Fall.

When Bert agreed to take the editorship over from me early this year, we discussed the need to revamp the WS. I have wanted to do this for some time, but felt that it should wait until the BCT had a 'New Beginning' with the resumption of public concerts. Since no one knows when that will happen, Bert decided to go ahead with some changes he had in mind.

I have had the same conversation with Art Woodworth and encourage him to use his considerable editing skills to make changes. So this might well be a very good time to pass on the changes you would like to see made, and the things you don't want to go away. You can pass your ideas on to me, or send them directly to Art. His address and email is on the bottom of the first page as is mine.

-- Jan La Fetra

## Schoenstein Event

On Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> the Schoenstein Organ Company's Open House featured a 46 rank organ to be installed in Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, Missouri and a plant tour.

Various people took turns playing and the large crowd enjoyed an afternoon of different styles of organ music. There were many children among the large crowd, and they seemed to especially be enchanted by how impressive this large building is, and the myriad of wonderful things to see. It was quite an education, even for those familiar with organs.

If you have not been to one of their yearly Open Houses, watch for it next summer. Jack Bethards has done wonders with Schoenstein Organ Company and it is well worth the trip to their factory in Benicia.

-- Frank

## NEW MEMBERS

NorCalTOS Welcomes:

**Mr. Chris Boas**

Fremont, CA

**Mr. Vernon Bickel**

Clearlake, CA

**Mr. Ken Eaton**

South San Francisco, CA

**Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Luscher**

Union City, CA

## OPEN CONSOLE

Sundays --

16 August

Remember to call the NorCal voice mail (510) 644-2707 that Sunday morning to confirm that the theatre is available.

## Windsheet by E-Mail

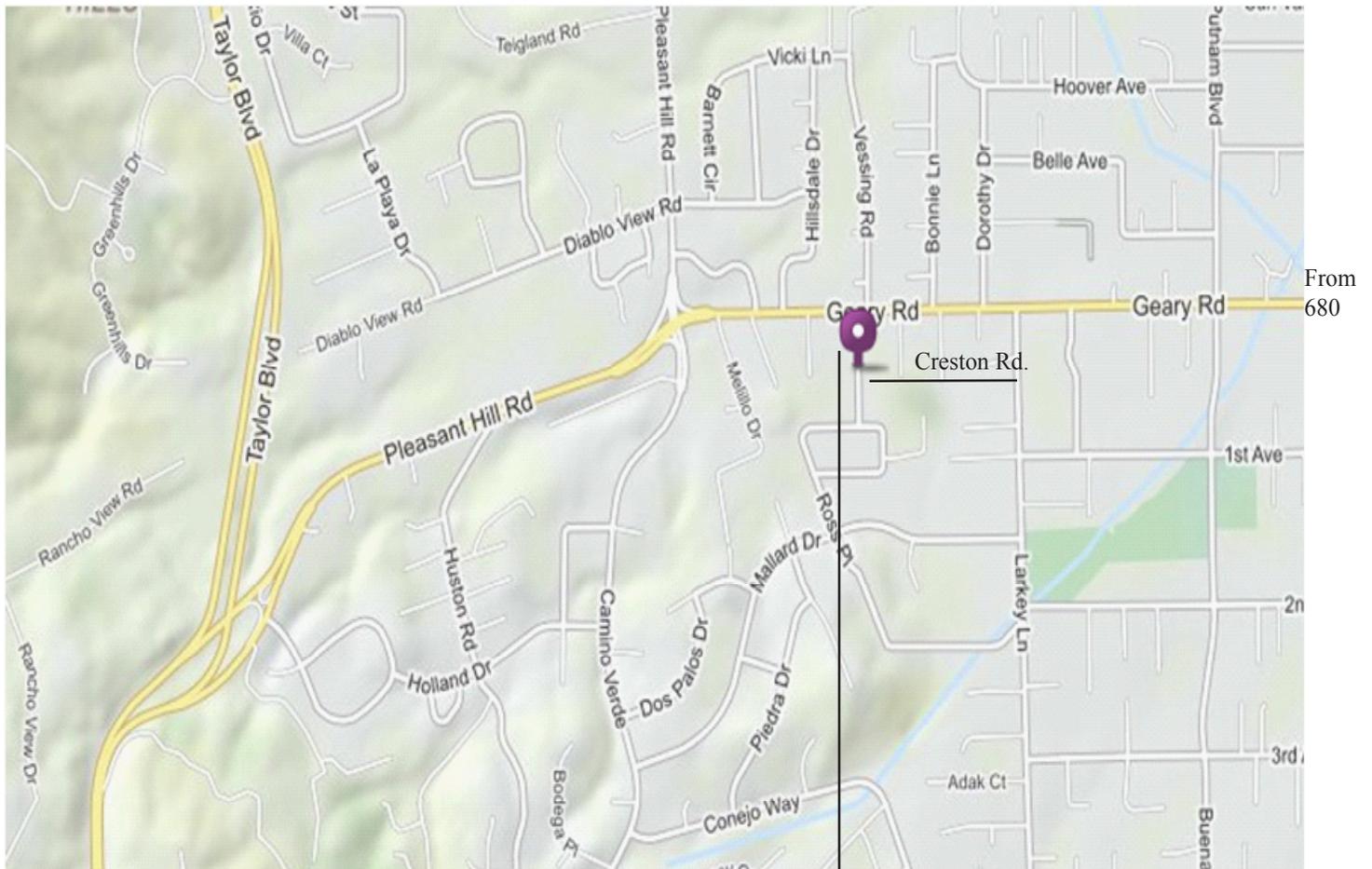
If you prefer to receive the Windsheet by Email contact Neal Wood at  
nealwood@pacbell.net

## MAP TO KEVIN KING'S HOUSE 2851 Creston Road, Walnut Creek, CA

Creston Road intersects Geary Road. The simplest way is from highway 680. Take the "Treat Blvd.-Geary Road" exit. You want to go west from the freeway up Geary Road. My street, Creston, is almost exactly one mile west of 680 up Geary Road.

You can also get there from highway 24 by taking the Pleasant Hill Road North exit off 24, go north on Pleasant Hill Road over the little hill, stay to the right and it turns into Geary Road. My street is just past the little Palos Verdes shopping center.

NORTH



From Highway 24

Kevin's House

NORCAL 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 call or write:

**Mr. Neal R. Wood at (415)861-7082 <nealwood@pacbell.net> , PO Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625.**

Dues are \$20 for NorCal TOS only and an additional \$50 for National ATOS (\$70 total) per year for full voting membership and subscription to *Theatre Organ* the six times a year glossy journal of ATOS. 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.