Aft er an eight-year heroic battle with Melanoma, Bert Atwood passed away on June 16th 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 29th. 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 trem-o-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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RICHARD HILLS CONCERT  
(continued from Page 1)

Richard wrapped up his concert with a medley from the operetta “The New Moon” by Sigmund Romberg. His selections included (not in order) “Softly as in a Morning Sunrise”, Lover Come Back to Me”, “One Kiss”, “Wanting You”, and concluding with the rousing “Stouthearted Men”.

I had been rather expecting to hear “Tiger Rag” as the encore but Richard surprised us with an over the top “Rock Around the Clock”. This was one of the very finest concerts ever at Berkeley.

Playlist as provided by Richard:

“Deadwood Stage”
“Spanish Serenade”
Medley from the movie “High Society”
“Cheeky Chappie”
“The Heather on the Hill”/”I Talk to the Trees”
Medley from “Mame”
Intermission
“Boots and Saddle” medley of familiar American tunes having western themes, mostly traditional songs
“Shooting Star”
“Quiet Village”
“Irving Berlin at the Movies” medley
“The Folks Who Live on the Hill”
Medley from “The New Moon”
Encore:
“Rock Around the Clock”

OPEN HOUSE AT KEVIN KING’S
Sunday, July 26, 2015
1 PM - 5 PM
2851 Creston Rd, Walnut Creek

Once again Kevin King has invited us to an Open House when he will play a short program at about 1:30, then open the console to those who would like to play his delightful 20-Rank 3/18 Wurlitzer.

You are invited to bring a picnic lunch if you wish, and Kevin will supply iced tea, lemonade, and a few “munchies”.

NorCal members who attended his Open House the last two years will vouch for the good time they had and seeing Kevin’s installation. It will be interesting to see what changes/additions he has made this last year.

WARNING

Because of construction on Geary Road, most of the street signs on the SOUTH side of Geary are missing, although the ones on the North side remain. If the Creston sign is still down Creston Road is almost directly opposite Vessing Road.

See the directions & map on Page 4.

NEXT BCT CONCERT

John Atwell
October 11, 2015

John Atwell, a very well known artist from Melbourne will be the next artist at our BCT.

John has been concertizing around the organ world for some 40 years, using not only the Theatre Organ, but Classical organs and pianos.

His playing style is not easily pigeonholed, but reflects the diversity of his musical experience.

Chairman's Windline

We certainly had a great time at the Richard Hills concert – I for one had not had the opportunity to hear Richard play in person, and it was an awesome experience! Happily, the concert was attended by several new NorCal members who had joined that afternoon. I think of our Wurlitzer as the “best kept secret” in Berkeley, and one that more people should know about. The most direct way to introduce new people to the theatre organ, and hopefully bring new members into NorCal, is to introduce them ourselves – so by all means, let’s invite our friends and neighbors to the next organ concert! Currently, our next scheduled program is the accomplished Australian organist John Atwell on Sunday, October 11th.

On Sunday, June 28th it was nice to see a number of friends from the NorCal and Sierra Chapters at the Schoenstein & Co. open house. Their recently completed 46-rank instrument is bound for a St. Louis church, and although it is a classical organ, pop and jazz music sound pretty good on it, as well. In addition to the organ itself, it was very interesting to roam through the workshop and see the various industrial-sized machines used in the organ-building process.

As part of our ongoing organ maintenance at BCT our resident total expert, Kevin King -- who incendially will be hosting an Open House for his for his own home Wurlitzer installation (July 26th) – regularly tunes the organ, typically before each concert. Kevin’s job is made easier by the heaters and circulating fans that keep the organ chambers at a constant temperature; without these, the organ would be out of tune every time the weather changed.
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 lead by Bill Schlotter, have set a day's work for maintaining an instrument such as ours.

The Wurlitzer at the Colonia 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 Strong, 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 28th 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 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 Booas
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
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.