

PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is a non-profit organization furthering the appreciation, restoration, and use of the historic Theatre Pipe Organs of the 1920s, through education.

OFFICERS

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Pipeline Online Website—Tom Blackwell
206-784-9203
Committee Liaison—Marilyn Schrum
Membership—Doug Owen, 253-566-6734
Publicity & Promotion, Tacoma
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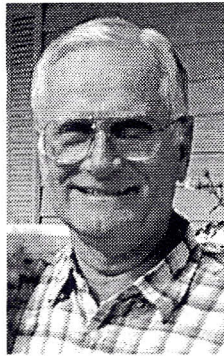
Listing of non-PSTOS events in the Pipeline

PSTOS, upon request, will list non-conflicting non-PSTOS theatre organ events in the "Other Events" column of the two Pipelines immediately preceding the event, providing Pipeline editors receive sufficient prior written notification. Venue, artist, type of event, date, and contact information will comprise the included information.

Advertising in the Pipeline

Classified-type ads for member-owned electronic, electric, or pipe organs, and/or pipe organ parts, will be published at no charge. Please limit copy to include brief description, contact name and phone number. Prices will not be listed. Ads may be edited for content and length. Mail ad copy to address above. Other advertising is not accepted.

PRESIDENT'S Message



Teddy Roosevelt said, "Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." I believe that preserving the theater organ for future generations is work worth doing. Besides, we can have a lot of fun doing it.

Tom Blackwell works hard keeping our website interesting, informative and up to date. If you haven't visited in a while, drop by www.pstos.org and get "organized."

Tedde Gibson has given PSTOS the three manual console from his Marr & Colton to rebuild and install at Franklin High School, pending the school district's approval. Does anybody know where the 2nd Avenue "swimming palace" organ came from? One list we know of says "a theater back east." Got something more specific, let us know!

Speaking of Tedde Gibson, he stepped in at the last minute to substitute for Dennis James at the Paramount on March 31 and accompanied *Wings* to a full house. Here is Tom Blackwell's impression of the event:

"The silent movie tonight at the Paramount was great, but not for the reasons I expected. I arrived at the theatre around 3:30PM today for the pre-show setup and was surprised to find Tedde Gibson at the console practicing to *Wings*. (I learned later that this was his first-ever viewing of the film.) Dennis James had missed his plane out of Florida and the theatre contacted Tedde to see if he could play. HE DID AN ABSOLUTELY MARVELOUS JOB! His arrangements and modulations were interesting and very appropriate to the film. Everything held together and the audience was extremely appreciative, giving him

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PSTOS Coming Events

Tony Fenelon and Jonas Nordwall Duo Concert at the Wilcox Wurlitzer Home in Gig Harbor

What a special event this will be! It may well be YEARS before you have another opportunity for such a musical experience. Get your tickets now!

Saturday, May 3, 2PM

A Two-For-One Special!

Visit St. Columban Church in Yelm to enjoy Father Terence's fine theatre pipe organ and have lunch. Then on to the Bill Keller home near Olympia to hear and play Bill's spectacular Custom Allen Theatre Organ.

Saturday, June 21st

Summer Social & Program— Mystery Guest at the Wurli!

Jack & Mary Lou Becvar home in Kent. A program on their 3-manual Wurlitzer.

Sunday, July 20

Home party!

Ray & Muriel Whelpley home, Bellevue. Another opportunity to hear and play a beautifully restored Wurlitzer!

Saturday, Aug. 9

AMICA Convention, Portland

(Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association) Let's charter a bus or even a train car! Hear Jonas Nordwall at the Oaks Park Rink and many other terrific programs. Full information coming in the May Pipeline.

August 20-24

Big Autumn Event at Haller Lake Community Club

Sunday, October 5

RAGMATAZZ with Ragtime Pianist BOB MILNE & Organist JONAS NORDWALL at Gig Harbor

Sunday afternoon, November 9

Annual PSTOS Christmas Party

Sunday, December 7

PRESIDENT'S Message,

Continued...

hearty applause before intermission and a standing ovation at the end. GREAT JOB, TEDDE!"

It is good to remember that theatre organs were designed to replace orchestras in accompanying silent films. Most theatre patrons did not go to the theatre specifically to hear the organ. There would have been complaints if the piano were used instead, but people would not have stopped going to see vaudeville and the movie. Your Board has been corresponding with folks in Australia, Denver and New York as to how to get more people to hear the theatre organ. A common thread is "the organ AND..." We will work to present organ and movies, vocalists, instrumentalists, drummers, dancers, etc., so that we can attract and infect more folks with our love of this magnificent musical instrument.

FOR SALE Organ Stuff

Small pipe organ for sale

4-rank organ from Margarite Theatre in Montana. Intact as it was originally installed. No alterations. Good organ for "first organ person." Room for five more ranks on relay/switch stack. No cut cables. Metal pipes boxed. Most offset pipes mitered to 8 feet. Very reasonable. For information please contact Richard Warburton at 360-677-2254

Other Northwest Theatre Organ Events

Simon Gledhill Concert at Portland's Cleveland H.S., Friday, May 2, 7:30PM

Sponsored by Portland Chapter, ATOS.

HOKUMHALL HAPPENINGS, 7904 35 AV SW, West Seattle, 206-325-6500

The Hokum Show, 8PM Saturdays, 3PM Sundays.

Music, magic, silent films, vaudeville, and the Wurlitzer with Professor Hokum W. Jeebs and friends. Hokum Hall in West Seattle. 206-325-6500, on the web at www.hokumhall.org

Hokum Hall Silent Movies, Fridays 7 & 9PM, Saturdays 2PM

Kids, Koko and Kar Krashes, May 2, 3

Oz before Judy!, May 9, 10

A Buster Keaton feature, College (1927), May 16, 17

Disney before Mickey, early animations from the Disney studio, May 23, 24

HISTORIC EVERETT THEATRE, May silent movie schedule

Organ accompaniment by Dennis James. Info at 425-253-6766.

The Iron Horse, Mon., May 5, 7PM The building of a transcontinental railroad. 1924.

A Dog's Life and The Pilgrim, Sun., May 11, 2PM Charlie Chaplin as a tramp. 1918.

Coming June 21st
More-Than-A-Home-Party
Don't miss it!

Plan now to attend Bill Keller's *More-Than-A-Home-Party* planned for Saturday, June 21st!

The day will begin with a visit to St. Columban Church in Yelm, to see, hear, and play Father Terrence's Robert Morton theatre pipe organ. And once again we'll enjoy the wonderful buffet lunch planned for us by the ladies of St. Columban, heralded by their famous dinner bell! And a real bargain it is for just \$7 per person.

After enjoying the Robert Morton, and the wonderful lunch, we'll drive on to the lovely home of Bill and Carol Keller in a semi-rural setting just a few miles away. Bill has an outstanding custom Allen theatre organ installed in a room that beautifully accentuates its sound. An easy organ to play, it's one for all to enjoy—practice up and have your music with you!

All the details, detailed drive instructions and reservation information for the lunch will be in the next Pipeline. Get it on your calendar now and reserve the day. It will be worth the drive through the countryside.

Remember, Saturday, June 21st for "*More-Than-A-Home-Party!*"

PIPE ORGAN Terminology

SWELL SHADES?

Well, they're not "swell window coverings!"

The word "swell" in organ terms means "an increase in volume or loudness."

"Shades," also called "shutters," permit the organist to **regulate** loudness or softness.

On an electronic organ, moving the volume pedal makes the sound louder or softer in a way similar to changing the volume control on a radio.

The pipes of a pipe organ, however, always "speak" with the same volume. There is not a way to adjust the amount of air blown into each pipe to make it softer or louder.

To enable expression, or loud and soft playing, pipes are installed in pipe chambers (small rooms) which contain the sound. Large openings, resembling windows with no glass, face toward the audience side of the room. Into these openings are installed large thick moveable wood shutters (occasionally glass) resembling oversized Venetian blind slats. Moving the expression pedal causes these shutters to pivot, one by one, allowing more or less sound to escape from the chamber.

Multiple expression pedals on larger instruments indicate multiple pipe chambers, each with its own set of shutters. This allows the organist to, for example, open the shutters on the chamber containing the clarinet when playing the first passage of *Rhapsody In Blue*, while keeping shutters closed on the chamber that contains the accompaniment voices. This allows the clarinet to be featured as the dominant instrument without being overpowered by other voices.

The shutters in the Gig Harbor home can be seen all the way across both chambers, and when fully opened, allow maximum volume to enter the music room. Even when the shutters are completely closed, a surprising amount of sound manages to escape.