



PUGET SOUND
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

On the Web at www.pstos.org

PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Published monthly by Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society, a non-profit organization
furthering the appreciation, preservation and use of the Theatre Pipe Organs of yesteryear

Volume 12 No. 1

January 2001

It's

Valentine's Day

Let's party!



Andy Crow



Professor Hokum W. Jeebs

Once again we celebrate
"The Good Old Days
at Pizza & Pipes"
Come to the big PSTOS
**All-You-Can-Eat
Pizza Buffet**

with

Wurlitzer Organ music!
Silent Movie! And More!

This year our Valentine's Day Party will be at Hokum Hall, with the funtastic Hokum Hall performers and their zany entertainment, a silent movie, and lots of music on the Wurlitzer! Join your PSTOS friends and enjoy the fun AND catered pizza, relishes and beverages.

All for just \$10 per person
Includes drinks, and an entire afternoon
of music and entertainment. A great
Valentine's Day bargain! Bring your
special sweetheart, AND your friends.

Sun., Feb. 11th, 2:00 pm
Hokum Hall

7904 35th Ave. SW, West Seattle

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society
6521 N.E. 191st St.
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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.

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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

*Happy New Year!
(The Real Millennium - 2001)*



Approximately 90 PSTOS members and friends enjoyed a grand day at the Haller Lake Community Club for our annual Christmas Party on December 3rd. What a wonderful Party! The freshly painted room looked exquisite with white tablecloths topped with white poinsettias. We were fortunate that the organizers of the 50th wedding anniversary party held the night before allowed us to use their set-up. Our white and gold Chapter Pipe Organ console fit in perfectly!

Delicious food items brought by members were enjoyed by all, along with carrot cake and punch provided by PSTOS. Raffle items (there must have been 20 or so) were claimed by lucky ticket holders – lots of good stuff!

New Officers and Board Members were voted on and sworn in their respective offices. I will continue as President, Dan Johansson as Vice President, Bob Zat as Secretary and Norman Miller as Treasurer. We welcome Les Lehne and Bill Keller as new Board Members. Andy Crow and Clint Meadway remain for their second year as Board Members, and Marilyn Schrum as Immediate Past President.

Thanks to Russ Evans and Tom Blackwell who contributed much during their terms as Board Members.

Andy Crow played seasonal music on both piano and pipe organ. He accompanied Hokum W. Jeebs who played the musical saw. Great stuff guys!

Many thanks go to Bob Zat who single-handedly uncrated and set up the organ console and PA equipment, emceed the event, and provided garbage detail and final mop-up of the hall. Ellen

Sullivan again arranged for and put up decorations and set up the food and coffee tables, and Marilyn Schrum helped keep the punch bowls filled!

Thank you, too, to all who helped take down tables and stack chairs after the party – you are appreciated!

Plans are underway for our 2001 Valentine 'Pizza and Pipes' Party. It was such a success last year, you won't want to miss it! It will be held at Hokum Hall this year so you know there are surprises in store, including silent movies, historical film footage, and plenty of PIPE ORGAN!!!! Mark Sunday, February 11th on your calendar. This is a 'for sure' event. — Barbara Graham

PSTOS Coming Events

Valentine's Day Party

A repeat of last year's terrific Pizza buffet and Wurlitzer music, this time at West Seattle's Hokum Hall. See front page for all the exciting details. Sun., Feb. 11th, 2:00 p.m.

Kent Museum Tour, Lunch and Open Console at the Becvar Home

In the planning stage, an unusual and fun day. It's always a kick to see and hear the Becvar home and Wurlitzer! More news coming as plans progress...watch your *Pipeline*!

Tentatively in May

Another picnic at Beaver Springs Lodge

The double organ installation continues and we're promised a DUAL concert in 2001, with the guaranteed completed Barton Theatre Organ playing, as well. Stay tuned!

August, 2001

**January Board Meeting
Monday, January 8th
Excalibur's Restaurant in
University Plaza Hotel,
I-5 and NE 45th St.
Dinner & meeting, 6:00**

OTHER Events of Interest

The Great January Silent Clown Festival

Presented by W. Seattle's Hokum Hall with musical accompaniment on the Mighty Wurlitzer Pipe Organ. For reservations and more information, call 206-937-3613 or visit www.hokumhall.org.

Chaplin Classics—Jan. 5-6

The Kid—the great picture upon which the famous comedian worked a whole year.

A Dog's Life—in which the Little Tramp and his dog struggle to survive in the inner city. Music by Andy Crow
January 5-6, 8:00 pm

Keaton Kapers—Jan. 12-13

Cops and College—Stars Buster Keaton. A series of mishaps manage to cause our young man to get chased by a big city's entire police force.

Music by Andy Crow
January 12-13, 8:00 pm

Hanging With Harold Lloyd

Jan 19-20

Number Please?—Our hero chases his girl friend's dog around a seaside resort, on the roller-coaster and merry-go-round.

High and Dizzy— Our tipsy hero rescues sleepwalker Davis from a building ledge, high above the street.

The Blunderer, and Never Weaken—Our hero is infatuated with a girl in the next office. In order to drum up business for her boss, an osteopath, he gets an actor friend to pretend injuries that the doctor "cures," thereby building a reputation. When he hears that his girl is marrying another, he decides to commit suicide and spends the bulk of the film in thrilling, failed attempts.

Music by Hokum Jeebs
January 19-20, 8:00 pm

Lots of Laurel and Heaps of Hardy—Jan 26-27

Soup to Nuts—Stan and Ollie are hired as waiters for a dinner hosted by newly-rich Mrs. Culpepper. She is keen to impress her society friends, but does not reckon with her inexperienced staff.

That's My Wife—Oliver stands to inherit a large fortune from his rich Uncle Bernal, with the condition that he be happily married. But when Mrs. Hardy walks out just before Uncle Bernal is due for a visit, Stanley is pressed into duty (and into drag) to impersonate Oliver's loving spouse.

Two Tars—Stanley and Oliver, two sailors on shore leave, rent a car and go on a drive with their dates, but soon get involved in a huge traffic jam with dozens of ill-tempered motorists. A minor collision sets off an escalating series of tit-for-tat retaliations which eventually has most of the cars in pieces.

Battle of the Century—Fight manager (Hardy) takes out an insurance policy on his puny pugilist (Laurel) and then proceeds to try to arrange for an accident so that he can collect. When a pie delivery man (Hall) slips on a banana peel, meant for the fighter, a classic pie throwing scene results.

Music by Andy Crow
January 26-27, 8:00 pm

Franklin High School's WINTER CONCERT 2001

A Space Odyssey

Featuring performances by:

- GUITAL ENSEMBLE
- CONCERT BAND
- JAZZ LAB
- TEDDE GIBSON at the pipe organ!

This outstanding event is a presentation of Franklin's Performing Arts Department and deserves your support. Franklin H.S. Auditorium
3013 S. Mt. Baker Boulevard
Thurs., Jan. 25, 7:30 pm—No charge!

For Sale

Long time member Margaret Hill wants to find a loving home for her beloved 1935 Knabe 5'8" grand piano. It has a walnut finish, has had just one owner and has enjoyed the finest of care. Please contact Margaret for particulars at P.O. Box 534, Silverdale WA 98383-0534. 360-692-0115

American Theatre Organ Society 2001 Scholarship Program Available

ATOS is again sponsoring a Scholarship Program for young people. Available is a \$1,000 Elva Fleming Memorial Scholarship, and 10 ATOS \$500 scholarships. This program will give some students the opportunity to study with professional theatre organ teachers, and college students a chance to further their music degree program in organ performance.

Candidates must be students ages 13 through 22 as of July 1, 2001, undergraduate level.

There are two categories of students who will be considered. Category "A" applicants must be full-time music students at an institution of higher learning, specializing in the study of organ performance. Candidate's names must be submitted by the school department head or designated representative.

Category "B" applicants' names must be submitted by their professional theatre organ teacher.

Many young people are unaware of the theatre organ, as well as this scholarship program. We hope all PSTOS members will think about worthy candidates they might know, and pass the names of any such young folks on to a PSTOS Board member.

PSTOS Scholarship funds are also available

Remember as well, our PSTOS Scholarship program is set up for the same purpose and depends upon you, the membership, to recommend worthy young folks to help.

And here's the latest from PSTOS scholarship recipient Owen Cannon...

Sunday afternoon I got back from Morrow, GA where I recorded the Widor *Finale* for the PRI program "From the Top." The program features pre-college age performers of classical music. I was their first organist. The whole program went very well, and I had a lot of fun. It was especially great being able to meet the other performers. After I played the Widor, there was a small skit for which I played a few measures accompaniment.

The organ in Spivey hall was a three manual 79 rank Ruffatti. It sounded really great and the room was quite reverberant also. I enjoyed playing Widor's *Finale* for the program because it used a lot of the resources of the organ. It was also a way for the audience to hear the different colors of the instrument.

The show should be broadcast in February, and I will be receiving a tape in the mail before then. —Owen Cannon

Remembering Gaylord Carter

Theater Organist and Master
Composer for Silent Classics

By Myrna Oliver, L.A. Times



Gaylord Carter, who gave sound to silent movies as his fingers danced over the multiple keyboards of massive theater pipe organs imitating everything from a gong to a glockenspiel, has died. He was 95.

Carter, one of the country's best-known theater organists for eight decades, died Nov. 20 in his Richard Neutra-designed home on a San Pedro bluff overlooking the ocean. He had suffered a stroke in 1993 and also had Parkinson's disease.

Performing from the age of 10 until about five years ago, Carter played in churches, in cavernous movie palaces, on radio, on television, and again in the theaters as silents enjoyed a resurgence. He left, as he put it, "a little legacy" in the 1980s when Paramount asked him to score a dozen silent film classics for home video.

Carter, who played across the United States, Europe and Australia, was named organist of the year by the American Theatre Organ Society and inducted into its Hall of Fame in 1975.

In recent years, the white-haired musical sprite delighted the thousands of Los Angeles area movie and architecture buffs who trekked downtown annually for the Los Angeles Conservancy's "Last Seats on Broadway" series screening of silent film favorites. The late Times columnist Jack Smith, observing Carter at the Orpheum's organ during the series' onset in 1987, wrote: "Like the organ itself, Carter is a national treasure and ought to be designated a historical monument."

In 1994, when Carter's playing had been curtailed somewhat by stroke, the Conservancy hired another organist but made Carter its guest of honor for a showing of "Ben Hur," a film and score he knew by heart. When it opened in 1926, the film lasted six straight months at the Million Dollar Theater on Broadway, and Carter was at the console

every single night.

"I was bowled over by it...a phenomenal score," he told The Times in 1994. "The music for the galley slave scene is tremendous."

Carter composed much of the music he played to accompany films, and drew heavily on classical pieces. Film reels were distributed, he said, with thematic cue sheets for the organist or pianist, indicating whether the picture was a comedy or drama or cowboy picture, and including a few bars of suggested music for major scenes. "The first time through, I'd have to wing it," he said. "But if there was a bugle call or a steamboat whistle, at least I'd know it was coming."

Bringing the musical pipes of Southern California to lyrical life, Carter accompanied the 1927 "The Student Prince" among others at the Orpheum and the 1925 "The Phantom of the Opera" at the First Congregational Church in Long Beach and the Avalon Theater on Santa Catalina Island. He played Forest Lawn's Wurlitzer for the Burbank Symphony Orchestra and played other fabled organs in San Pedro's Warner Grand Theater, the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium, the Seeley G. Mudd Theater in Claremont and the Crystal Cathedral in Orange Grove.

Carter also taught younger people to play, warning they had little chance of making a living as theater organists. During the silent era, about 7,000 of the gigantic organs were built, he often lamented, but only about 100 survive and many of those are relegated to restaurants and pizza parlors.

The keyboard was Carter's lifelong playground, and he used it as a whole special effects studio for silent films--thunderous music for battles, ominous chords for villains, trick sounds for punch lines. "At its best, the music is felt but not noticed," he once told The Times. "When it's right, you should lose yourself in the picture."

Born in Weisbaden, Germany, Aug. 3, 1905, Carter immigrated to Wichita, Kan., where his father became a church organist and his mother taught piano. "I got my training by absorption. I did take six months of piano lessons and six months of organ lessons." At age 10, young Carter was playing the organ in Wichita's Congregational Church, and at 14, he played for children's matinees in a theater there. In 1922, when Carter was 16, the family moved to Los Angeles. Then a student at Lincoln High School in Lincoln Heights, the teenager got into theater accompaniment for silent films for lack of a dime. Unable to afford a ticket to see a movie at his neighborhood theater, he asked if he could play the music for it. He was hired and watched many movies as he played.

Later, at the Seville Theater in Inglewood, Carter was accompanying "The Kid," a comedy starring Harold Lloyd, when the star

himself came in to see how the film was doing. Lloyd was so impressed with Carter's playing that he made him his personal organist and recommended him for a position at the prestigious Million Dollar Theater at Third Street and Broadway. Hired in 1926 for \$110 a week, the 21-year-old Carter dropped out of pre-law studies at UCLA to play the organ full time. Asked by a UCLA counselor if his reason for leaving were financial, Carter said: "Yes, I'm making too much money." He put a brother and sister through college, but he himself never graduated.

Lloyd often kibitzed with Carter about the music for his comedies, telling him: "Gaylord, when they're laughing, play softly. It's when they're not laughing that I need you."

When Carter swung into "Time on My Hands" during Lloyd's classic scene dangling from a skyscraper clock in "Safety Last," Lloyd drolly told the organist: "Gaylord, I'll do the jokes."

As sound pictures developed during the late 1920s, Carter kept his steady job at the Million Dollar and later at the Paramount playing for intermissions and for audience sing-a-longs. But by 1935, he moved into radio, with his own "Prelude to Midnight" program on Los Angeles' KHJ and accompanying several network shows. Most memorably, for seven years he played "The Perfect Song" to introduce the popular show "Amos 'n' Andy."

During World War II, Carter was a Naval motion picture officer in the Aleutians, joking that he was "the Louis B. Mayer of Alaska." Returning to Los Angeles, he played for radio's "The Whistler," "Suspense" and a show called "Bride and Groom" and later for television's "Pinky Lee Show" and others. He also had his own local show, "Everybody Sing with Gaylord" on KCOP Channel 13.

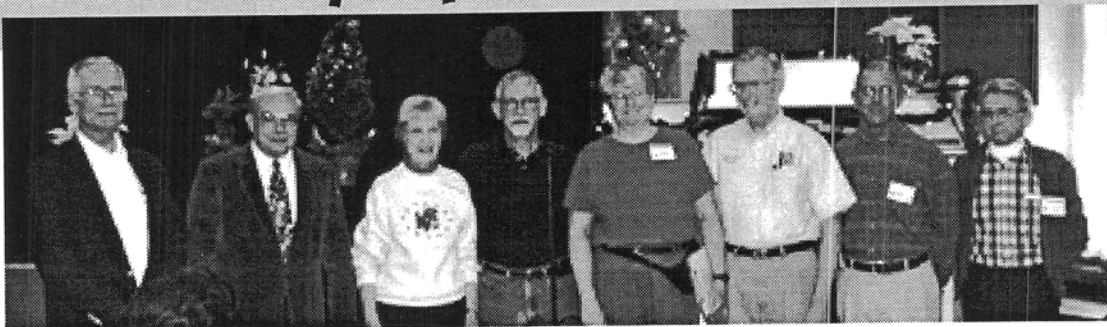
In the late 1950s, Carter formed a production company, "Flicker Fingers," that helped prod the revival movement of silent films, which put him back in the old theaters he loved.



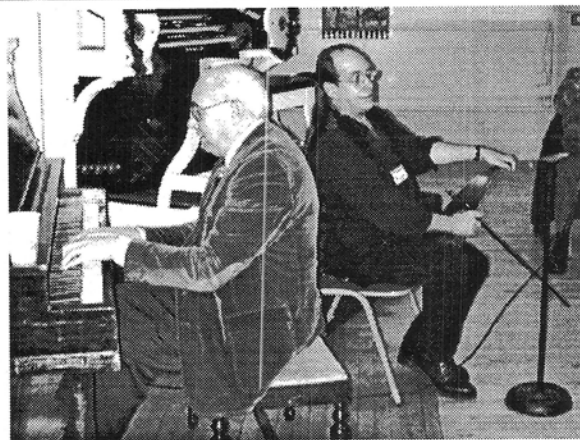
The Christmas Party in pictures...

THE NEW BOARD

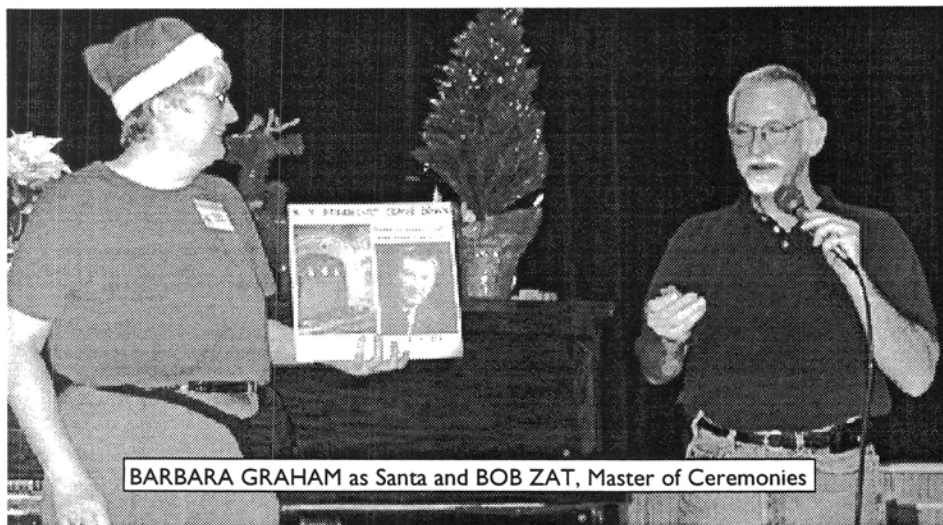
Clint Meadway, Andy Crow, Marilyn Schrum, Bob Zat, Barbara Graham, Bill Keller, Dan Johansson, Les Lehne. Not in picture, Norman Miller.



THE BUFFET TABLE...YUM!



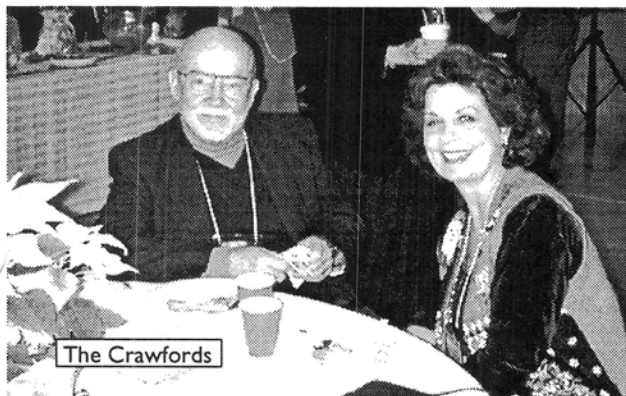
THE ENTERTAINERS—ANDY CROW AND HOKUM JEEBS WITH HIS MUSICAL SAW



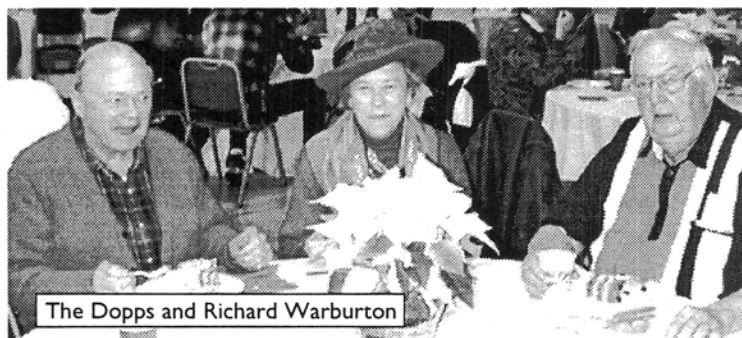
BARBARA GRAHAM as Santa and BOB ZAT, Master of Ceremonies



The Eppersons



The Crawfords



The Dopps and Richard Warburton

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Drive directions to Hokum Hall for the Valentine's Day Party

7904 35th Av. W., West Seattle

By car: Take Exit 163 from I-5 onto the West Seattle bridge. Follow the sign to Fauntleroy, which curves to the left. At the first light, turn left onto 35th Av. SW. Drive south about 30 blocks. Hokum Hall is just south of Kenyon on the east side of the street. Easy street parking.

Or take Metro Bus #21 Arbor Heights from anywhere on 1st Ave. between Denny and Jackson in downtown Seattle. Buses run every half hour. Ask the driver to stop at 35th & Kenyon. Hokum Hall is across the street. Idea: park at the Northgate Transit Center just south of the mall, take any bus downtown, transfer to #21. For complete metro bus information:

<http://transit.metrokc.gov/>

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The Christmas Party in pictures... continued from page 5



Great music and great food with great friends— That's THE BEST!

