

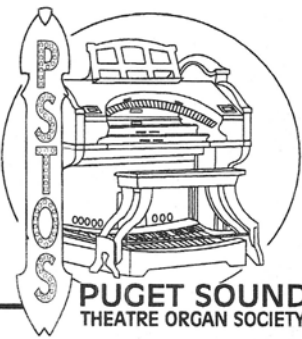
On the Web at [www.pstos.org](http://www.pstos.org)

# 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. 2

February 2001



PUGET SOUND  
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY



**PLEASE HELP US PLAN FOR FOOD AND TABLES!**  
Your phone call to let us know how many to expect will  
be **MUCH** appreciated! [425-485-5465](tel:425-485-5465) or [rjevans@aa.net](mailto:rjevans@aa.net)

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 entertain-  
ment, 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. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm**  
**Hokum Hall**

7904 35th Ave. SW, West Seattle

See page 6 for drive directions, AND Metro bus info. Questions? [425-485-5465](tel:425-485-5465) • [rjevans@aa.net](mailto:rjevans@aa.net)

**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.

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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.

# 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. 11, 2:00 p.m.

**Another "Town Hall Concert"  
with David DiFiore and our  
own Charlotte Blackwell**

David presents a program of light and enjoyable organ numbers, showing off the Bosch organ installed in the Chapel of University Methodist Temple. Also featuring harpist Charlotte Blackwell with Irish music for St. Paddy's Day.  
Sun., Afternoon, March 25

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

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY  
Treasurer's Report, Jan. through Dec. 2000  
Statement of Income and Expense

**INCOME:**

Dues	\$4,095.00
Scholarship	1,650.00
Event income	5,655.00
Becvar magazine sales	942.00
Interest Income	28.02
One Big Weekend share	127.04
Miscellaneous Income	243.50
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$12,740.56</b>

**EXPENSE:**

Pipeline printing/distrib	\$ 858.90
Scholarship – lessons/travel	2,062.85
Electricity at HLCC	145.84
Postage/bulk mailing	864.52
ATOS dues transferred	180.00
Event expense	5,149.62
Insurance	579.00
Grants	1,000.00
Miscellaneous expenses	975.77
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$11,816.50</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 924.06</b>

Scholarship fund balance	\$ 4,816.00
Becvar Magazine Fund	\$ 800.08
Haller Lake Organ Fund	\$ 2,091.01
Money Market Acct10/31/00	\$ 25,976.32

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 Sat., May 19

**Saturday Social at the  
Evans' residence, Kenmore**

Music, food and fun on a Saturday in Summer. Enjoy the 3/16 Wurlitzer. Artist to be announced. Limited to 65.  
Sat., July 14,

**Another picnic at Beaver  
Springs Lodge**

The **Postponed due to** continuing construction.  
See page 6!  
August, 2001

**Annual PSTOS  
Christmas Party**

Another happy holiday event.  
Haller Lake Community Club  
Sun., Dec. 2, 2:00 p.m.

**PSTOS logo now available  
embroidered on your  
clothing items—  
see member Bill Keller**

PSTOS member Bill Keller, in addition to being the proud owner of a marvelous Allen Theatre Organ, has a most interesting retirement business. After many years with the Washington State Patrol, he wanted a new direction. He acquired sophisticated computerized embroidery equipment capable of reproducing almost any logo or printed message, in a wide range of sizes, on a variety of garments... caps, shirts, jackets, sweatshirts...

He has reproduced our PSTOS logo, IN COLOR as it appears on the website, and has created some lovely designs. He showed samples at the last Board meeting and the Board was impressed!

Bill will display his designs at the February 11 Valentine's Party. You'll be able to see examples of his offerings, and he is more than willing to discuss your own ideas. He can embroider the designs on your own garments, or on garments he provides.

Be sure to check out his display. And "wear the PSTOS colors!"

## Remembering Pearl Nelson

With much sadness, we have learned of the passing of longtime friend Pearl Nelson in early January. Pearl and now-deceased husband Lloyd, both active in PSTOS for many years, were both avid organ enthusiasts. They became co-owners of a Rodgers Custom 340, designed by Jonas Nordwall and others with both theatrical and classical organ voices to satisfy the interests of each of them, and generously opened their home often for the enjoyment of others.



accompanist for the Issaquah Singers and also was volunteer rehearsal pianist for the Issaquah Village Theatre productions.

While growing up in the Iowa farm country, Pearl began studies of organ and piano with her aunt, Faith Woodford, a music professor and church organist. Her great-grandfather was a traveling parson, playing the melodeon for worship services in small prairie towns. This antique instrument later graced the entry in the Nelsons' Issaquah home. During her beginning years as a librarian in Rochester, New York, Pearl studied at the Eastman School of Music with Catherine Crozier, now an internationally acclaimed concert artist; she also developed a love for what was then "forbidden" theater organ music. She became a longtime

In addition to being an active member of the League of Women Voters, following Lloyd's death, Pearl continued her stewardship of their collection of species rhododendrons, and the Seattle Rhododendron Society made annual pilgrimages to view their well-kept woodland gardens at the base of Tiger Mountain during the blooming season.

Her many friends were constantly amazed by her musical output, and inspired by her quick sense of fun and vibrant outlook on life. As one person commented, "Pearl was a diamond which shall shine in my heart always".

Many thanks to Diane Whipple, a close friend of Pearl's, for writing this tribute.

Coming March 25th  
 Another  
**"Town Hall Concert"**  
 with  
**David Di Fiore and  
 Charlotte Blackwell**

David Di Fiore will present favorite light classics on a "new" Bosch pipe organ.

Just installed in the chapel of University Temple United Methodist Church, this is an exciting instrument in an ideal auditorium.

### Harpist

Charlotte Blackwell will entertain with delightful Irish music celebrating St. Patrick's Day

Charlotte, PSTOS member and talented harpist, is much in demand for weddings, receptions and celebrations.

We're delighted she has agreed to entertain PSTOS members at this event.

## For Sale Organ stuff

Allen MDS Theatre II with MDS Expander and two tone cabinets. Excellent condition. Original owner. Olympia.

For more information please phone member John Ferguson during the day at 206-490-7912

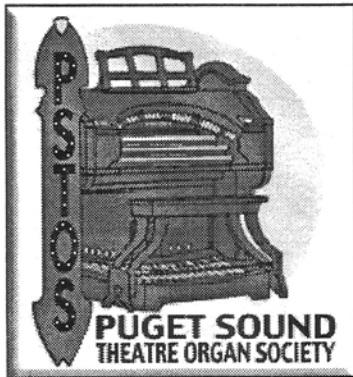
### Welcome, New Members

- Virgil & Ruth Adams • Allyn
- Robert Crone • West Vancouver, B.C.
- Tom Crossett • Seattle
- Carol DeRoos • Bellingham
- John & Jackie Ferguson • Olympia
- Vernon & Shirley Greenstreet • Bellingham
- Ray & Tonya Harris • Lynnwood
- Max Power • Lynnwood
- Darvin Roth & Susan Collins • Gig Harbor
- Art Smith • Bremerton
- Sharon & Randy Stearns • Gig Harbor
- Allan Wilson • Redmond

Sun., March 25, 3:00  
 The Chapel at  
 University Temple  
 Methodist Church  
 1415 NE 43rd St., Seattle

(Intersection of 15th NE and NE 43rd St. Park at no charge in the U.W. parking lot across the street from the church. Enter the lot from NE 45th St.)





[www.pstos.org](http://www.pstos.org)

# PUGET SOUND PIPELINE online

It's hard to believe that the PSTOS website has been up and running for almost 2-1/2 years. What started out as a simple promotional site for PSTOS, has now grown to include almost 600 pages of historical information and 350 pictures of Northwest theatres, theatre organs and organists in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and British Columbia Canada. The web site "hit" counter recently passed 14,000 visitors!

PSTOS was the lucky beneficiary of the late Bill Bunch's extensive archive of theatre organ memorabilia. Many one-of-a-kind pictures and news clippings have been digitally scanned for use on the PSTOS web site. Because of this vast collection, Northwest theatre organ history is probably among the best documented of all ATOS chapters. Detailed notes from Bill Nye, Sandy Balcom and Bill Bunch himself provide a uniquely detailed history of Northwest theatre organs and where they went after their original theatre homes: churches, skating rinks, residences, taverns, dance halls and even the Alki Natatorium swimming pool.

In addition to the Bill Bunch collection, a considerable amount of material has been gathered from "Theatre Organ/Bombarde" journals, "The Console" and other magazines. Additional research has included the Polk City Directories, Northwest historical texts and numerous on-line sources. Many theatre exterior photos and downtown scene street views of theatres have been located in this way. All of this information has been added to the PSTOS web site but we've only scratched the surface! Hundreds more pages of historical information and photographs are still to be added.

In addition to the historical sections, the web site also includes features such as: PSTOS members' Items For Sale, Concert & Events, a list of theatre organ restoration parts suppliers and a "search engine" to locate pages that include a specific word or phrase across the entire site. There is even an on-line "guest book" so that visitors can give feedback and comments about the site.

As the guest book can attest, the PSTOS site has been a source of enjoyment to theatre organ buffs world wide. Even a few native Washingtonians who have moved out of state or overseas have found their way back to the PSTOS site to

reminisce about Northwest theatre organs. Many of these individuals have e-mailed the PSTOS webmaster to provide updates about the whereabouts of Northwest theatre organs and organists. The best part is, all of this information has been added to the website so that it can be enjoyed by all.

Interestingly, the PSTOS website has also been a surprise hit with Northwest historians and genealogists. Many of them have "surfed the web" to the PSTOS site where they find items of interest about relatives who were silent movie organists, vaudeville performers, theatre architects or stage workers.

Pay a visit to the PSTOS web site. You won't be disappointed. New material is added almost daily. Click on the "What's New" button on the main page to see a list of the recently added items.

[HTTP://WWW.PSTOS.ORG](http://WWW.PSTOS.ORG)

If you have Historical material to contribute, please contact Tom Blackwell at (206) 784-9203 or by e-mail at [tom@pstos.org](mailto:tom@pstos.org). Donations to the PSTOS Archives are gladly accepted, but items can be scanned and promptly returned if you wish.

See you on the web!

Tom Blackwell, PSTOS Webmaster  
[tom@pstos.org](mailto:tom@pstos.org)

## From the Mailbox

The following note from member Victor Smiley is a real lesson in retaining one's sense of humor through adversity.

This is the reason that I have not been active in PSTOS recently. Hopefully I can participate more this year.

My Christmas and holiday cards are different this year, basically because I could not shop for the cards I wanted.

Three months ago I fractured my right hip by doing a plié on my waxed floor. I am now in the adjustment from "walker to cane." Fred Astaire, the dancer, used a

beautiful cane for his routines. This I would like!

Yesterday I played for an Annual Christmas Program for a retirement home. The lovely and appreciative ladies would have liked me to stay (I know) because I was the only male present and looked to be a perfect applicant for the home.

Daily I thank God for the love and concerns of my many friends. They have brought me food, invited me to dinners, driven me, done my laundry, fixed the shower, moved and repaired doors, replaced light bulbs, sent numerous cards, and called me frequently to buoy my spirit. Even the mailman delivers my mail to my door.

I enjoy the electric cars at the market. They remind me of the "dodge-ems" at the carnival. So far I have only hit and spread potatoes.

I have resumed my organ positions though at present I am a "one-footed organist." My students have been most cooperative and playing engagements have increased. Mills Music has an "electric chair" to whisk me to my studio. Great!

Happy New Year!  
Victor Smiley

*Best PSTOS wishes for a speedy and full recovery, Vic.*

*And most of all, DO KEEP SMILING!*

# PAGES FROM THE PAST...1927

If you lived in Seattle and decided to attend the movies on September 7, 1927, you could have gone downtown to the Embassy Theatre at 3rd & Union and for a quarter (kiddies a dime), seen this “dazzling, speedy romance of New York’s gamblers, pretty women, and night airplane rides” and heard Eddie Clifford at the 219 Kimball. This organ eventually was moved to Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, and later to the Harold Shawver residence in Edmonds.



If you think those were “the good old days,” the following headlines appearing on the same page might surprise you:

- “Girl Scares Thief, Saving Owner Of Theatre \$2,100”
- “Inquest Held in Kelso Murder and Suicide”
- “Two Seriously Injured When Automobile Burns”
- “Suspects Acquitted On Murder Charges”
- “Americans Pet King’s Cows—Royalty’s Farm Inspected”  
with this sub-headline:
- “Household Economies Explained and Visitors Shown Where Buckingham Palace Gets Milk, Vegetables and Chickens.”
- “Judging Started at Cowlitz County Fair”
- “Vantage Bridge To Be Opened Tomorrow”



This advertisement appeared in *The Seattle Times* on September 7, 1927. The featured organist was Eddie Clifford, shown right. The photo is dated 1934, seven years after the date of this ad. The handwriting on the photo says, “To my sincere friend Sandy Balcom—Eddie Clifford.”



The street scene above shows the Embassy Theatre during a period of construction.

To learn more about the Embassy and its organ, go to the PSTOS website at [www.pstos.org](http://www.pstos.org) and click on N.W. Theatre Organ History. Then click on Washington, and scroll down to Embassy Theatre.

This material is from the William J. Bunch archives.

## 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/>

### PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors

6521 N.E. 191st

Kenmore, WA 98028-3453

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## "An Aching of Seats in a Palace of Splinters"

A Progress Report From Beaver Springs Lodge

Courtesy of Clint Meadway, Technical Consultant for the project

In our last episode—last summer's picnic—the promise was made to have the Barton portion of the organ playing for a picnic this summer. Sad to say, we are not going to make it.

Your genial host, Dr. Bob Schladetzky, finds that he can only do the work of two people. With the many tasks involved in getting the building completed, inspected and signed off by the authorities, his schedule has taken a direct hit.

As technical consultant, I've had a bunch of loose ends to tie up after last summer's picnic. The ends were of a greater quantity than realized and were really loosey-goosey, so my work at the

Lodge will start about the time you read this.

The Barton console, although playing when removed from the theatre, needs a lot of work. Bob has tackled this area and is making good progress.

We have found that a larger high pressure blower is needed to make the high pressure stuff work, so we are checking sources from Olympia to Washington, D.C. to find out what is available.

And we need more relay capacity. Small wonder! Two three manual consoles, a floating division on one, two double touch manuals on the other, and 45 ranks are a little more than a 3/15 Wurlitzer is

equipped to handle. No, raising the wind pressure to the relay does NOT help.

On the positive side, the combination action in the Austin console now works, the expression shutters in the Main are working, more ranks are installed and winded, we have found the second Tibia Clausa, for the Solo chamber, and have a Harfenregal that will pretend it is a Kinura until we find a legitimate Kinura—if there is such a thing.

All in all, the Lodge might be ready in time for a picnic this summer, but it's better to be safe than sorry. When the beast is alive and well, Pipeline readers will be the first to know!

## Virgil Fox Biography to be published soon

An irreverent look at a brilliant but irreverent organist

By Richard Torrence & Marshall Yaeger, based on a memoir by Ted Alan Worth

For PSTOS members who are interested, a biography of the famous Virgil Fox (1912–1980) will be published in the spring of this year. Fox was one of the most flamboyant organists ever, and brought classical organ music to an entire new generation with his light shows and theatrics.

The book contains a wealth of information assembled by Ted Alan Worth, the late organist who was Fox's confidant, protégé, and artistic heir, Richard Torrence, Fox's manager from 1962 to 1979, and Marshall Yaeger, who had written Fox's management material and record liner notes while

acting as booking and marketing director for Fox.

Worth spent two years completing a 375–page manuscript in longhand and shortly before his death in 1998 from cancer, turned it over to Torrence for editing.

The book draws an affectionate but irreverent picture of a brilliant, irreverent artist, and is therefore subtitled "The Dish," which was a term popularized in a line from Rodgers & Hart's "The Lady is a Tramp."

Scores of historical photographs will be included in the book, the publishing of which became possible when the

Virgil Fox Society guaranteed its preparation. A significant portion of the proceeds will benefit the society and help sponsor organ scholarships.

Copies of the 350–page paperback book, designed by Len Levasseur and published by Circles International, may be reserved at [www.organarts.com](http://www.organarts.com). Estimated time for shipping is March 31, 2001. The first 500 books ordered will be signed by the authors and shipped with one of the "Organ Power" buttons that were given out at Virgil Fox's first "Heavy Organ" concert on December 1, 1970 at New York's Fillmore East.