

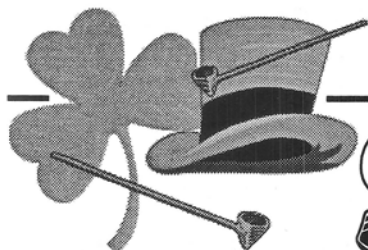
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PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

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 13 No. 2

February 2002



Celebrate the 'Wearin' of the Green!

Saint Patrick's Day

Pizza Party with MUSIC, MOVIES & FUN!

Featuring
our own...



Jo Ann Evans

with favorites
on the theatre pipe organ



Charlotte Blackwell

with traditional Irish harp music
and

PLUS two rare movies

"The Movie Palaces,"
narrated by Gene Kelley,
and

A 1920s "tour" through the
Wurlitzer factory showing just
how theatre organs were made

*Enjoy pizza, salad,
beverages and dessert,
all included!*

Sunday, March 17th, 2:00 p.m.

Haller Lake Community Club • 12579 Densmore Ave. N.

A joint presentation of PSTOS and HLCC to benefit the HLCC building upgrade fund.

The elevator is now working! Park in the back lot and try it out.

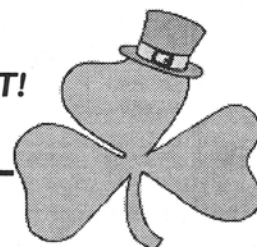
ADMISSION • \$10 per person • RESERVE EARLY PLEASE!

INCLUDES PIZZA, SALAD, BEVERAGE, DESSERT AND ENTERTAINMENT!

WHAT A BARGAIN!

RESERVATIONS by March 11th ESSENTIAL!

425-485-5465 or rj.evans@verizon.net



PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society
6521 N.E. 191st St.
Kenmore, WA 98028-3453

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 2002!

I am hopeful we will see a more safe, friendly and serene year in 2002.

During 2001 we enjoyed:

- A 'Pizza & Pipes' Valentine Party at Hokus Hall in February;
- A Town Hall Concert at University Temple Methodist Church with David DiFiore at the pipe organ and our own Charlotte Blackwell on the harp in March;
- The 'Kent Experience' which included a tour of the Kent Historical Museum and 'Organ 'n' Scones' with Eric Shoemaker at the Becvar Wurlitzer in May,
- Andy Crow accompanying the silent movie 'Big Business' at the Haller Lake Community Club's Building Upgrade Benefit in July;
- A 'Summer Social' at the Evans' featuring Don Feely, also in July;
- Another famous 'Buffet Lunch' and concert at St. Columban Church Hall in Yelm with Tedde Gibson at Father Terence's Robert Morton, accompanied by jazz vocalist Edmonia Jarrett;
- Jonas Nordwall in concert, with two selections by Owen Cannon, our PSTOS Scholarship recipient, at Leif & Bonnie Johnson's Wurlitzer in November;
- Our Christmas Party featuring the 'Ladies in Red' saxophone quartet and Don Wallin on our Chapter Theatre Pipe Organ in December.

Wow! What a year!

My thanks to outgoing Board Members Dan Johansson and Andy Crow, and welcome to new Board Member Carl Dodrill. Your Board is in place and ready to set about planning the New Year's activities.

And to you, members of PSTOS, thanks for supporting your organization!

— Barbara Graham

PSTOS Coming Events

Valentine's Party

Sorry—this event canceled

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Jointly sponsored by PSTOS and HLCC to benefit the HLCC building upgrade fund. See cover page for details.

Haller Lake Community Club

Sunday, March 17th, 2:00 PM

Summer Social – NEW DATE!

Another summer music event at the home of Russ and Jo Ann Evans.

Saturday, July 13, 2 PM

Summer Picnic

Home of Bill Keller with music on his exciting custom 3-manual Allen Theatre Organ. Watch for more details.

Saturday, August 10

Chris Powell Concert

Famous organist from England on a world tour. Time and venue TBA

Sunday, Sept. 8

OTHER Events of Interest

Rick Parks at the Elsinore

Rick is resident organist at Salem's Elsinore Theatre and a fine musician. For information, 503-665-6633.

Sunday afternoon, March 24

Barry Baker In Concert

Barry is fast becoming one of the top theatre organists in the U.S. The good folks at Olympia's Washington Center are bringing Barry to town to celebrate completion of earthquake repairs to the Wurlitzer, for which PSTOS made a substantial contribution. Put it on your calendar now and enjoy both this great Wurlitzer AND a great organist...it's definitely a not-to-be-missed concert!

More info next issue.

Sunday, April 14

From the Mailbox

Dear Pipeline Editors,

I wish I could get up there for some of your interesting meetings. It seems like a long way away, but I shouldn't let that stop me.

I have signed up for Susan Cole's cruise to Alaska. [See article below—Editor.] I know she has been talking to you. I hope there are some people from PSTOS who will be going.

Your newsletter article about Oliver Wallace was very interesting. I have a Gaylord Carter story involving Oliver Wallace. It seems that Gaylord was driving along Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles when he saw Wallace walking and looking very glum. Gaylord stopped and picked him up and asked what the problem was. Wallace was depressed because he knew his movie accompaniments were coming to an end. Gaylord suggested that Wallace should go see Walt Disney because they were looking for a musical director. The rest is history! [Editor's note—Oliver Wallace followed up on Garylord's tip and became Music Director for Disney Studios.]

Dave Schutt, San Jose, California

7-Day Theatre Organ Cruise to depart from Seattle Aug. 4

The very first Theatre Organ "Musicruise" ever will depart from Seattle August 4th, bound for the inside passage and Alaska. Organized by Susan Cole, a Florida organ enthusiast and tour planner, the trip will feature seven fun-filled musical days aboard the Norwegian Sky – Norwegian Cruise Lines. **Tom Hazelton** and **Donna Parker** will present morning "Fun with Theatre Organ" sessions, and thrilling evening concerts.

Cox Music of Bothell will provide the Allen Theatre Organ for the tour.

Susan is planning optional additional theatre organ events in the Seattle area the two nights preceding departure.

For information, contact Susan Cole, P.O. Box 653, Mount Dora, FL 32756. Phone 352-383-6975, FAX 352-735-6454. Or inquire via email at LegatoLady@aol.com

Long time member DON MYERS is recognized with Honorary Lifetime Membership Award

At the Christmas Party, DON MYERS was caught unaware and totally surprised when he was publicly recognized for his lifelong commitment to the theatre pipe organ, and his numerous contributions of time and effort on behalf of PSTOS.

Don worked for Balcom & Vaughn Pipe Organs for many years. He played a large role in the preservation of the Paramount Theatre Wurlitzer, was involved with the PSTOS club organ, and had a lesser role in many other theatre organ installations in the Puget Sound area.

Don is a "natural" musician, having pleased PSTOS listeners with his music at many open console sessions and at several concerts.

Thank you, Don, for all you've done to preserve, restore, and present the Theatre Pipe Organ for Puget Sound devotees!



PSTOS Financial Operations Report for 2001

Income:

Dues collected (PSTOS & ATOS)	\$ 4,110.00
Scholarship Fund income	1,133.49
Event income	5,348.00
Interest income	18.01
Miscellaneous income	463.25
Total income	\$11,072.75

Expense:

Pipeline printing	\$ 879.30
Postage and bulk mail	611.46
Event expense	4,444.72
Haller Lake hall rent	300.00
Scholarship (lessons/travel)	1,880.00
Electricity (HLCC organ power)	236.95
ATOS Dues (transferred)	210.00
Insurance	600.00
Grants/Gifts*	2,152.16
Miscellaneous expense	943.72
Total expense	\$12,258.31
Net	(\$1,185.56)

*\$2,000 given to Washington Center for the Performing Arts Wurlitzer earthquake repair fund.
\$152.16 given to the Kent Food Bank from the 2000 Christmas Party drawings.

Scholarship Fund balance	4,196.49
Haller Lake Organ Maintenance Fund	2,017.26
Magazine fund (sales of old ATOS magazines)	423.33
Checking account balance	5,924.02
Money market account	26,250.84

Lost & Found items from the Christmas Party...

A green pan lid and a white Corelle plate were left behind at HLCC after the Christmas Party. Please phone Barbara Graham at 206-525-7859 to claim these items. If they remain unclaimed, Barb will send them to a charity.

CLOSING CHORD

Reidar (Ray) Hansen

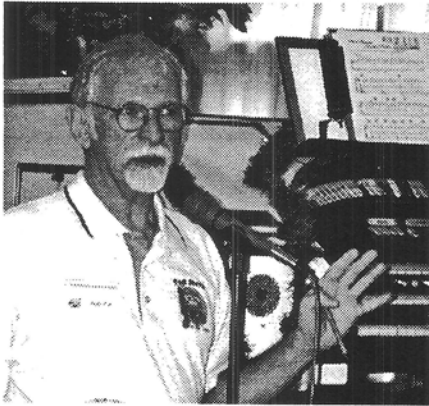
Sympathy is extended to family and friends of Ray Hansen, who passed away December 21st. Ray, and his wife, Florence, are long time enthusiastic PSTOS supporters. We will very much miss seeing Ray at our events.

Christmas Party Picture Page

The Christmas Party was a great success, with entertainment provided by Tacoma's "Ladies In Red" saxophone quartet, and by Don Wallin at the club organ. Great food, great music, great fun!



The 2002 Board Of Directors stand at attention after being sworn into office. LEFT TO RIGHT: Bill Keller, Les Lehne, Clint Meadway, Norman Miller, Barbara Graham, Bob Zat, Marilyn Schrum. Missing from photo, Carl Dodrill.



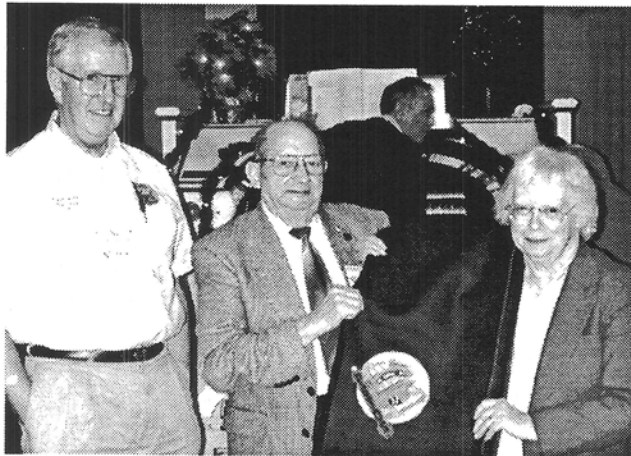
FAR LEFT: Bob Zat —our always outstanding M.C.



LEFT: Ellen Sullivan once again beautifully decorated the hall and organized the food tables. THANK YOU ELLEN!!

BELOW LEFT: Mel and Elena Retzlaf won the drawing for a beautiful lap robe embroidered with the PSTOS logo, donated by member Bill Keller, standing at left.

BELOW: The food table was a stunner!



Doub and Terri Owen, Tacoma



Harry Harkness, San Francisco, & Doris Harkness, Seattle



Clyde and Adeline Hook, Tacoma

Pages From The Past

Hoquiam's Seventh Street Theatre was first in the state to show talking pictures. Today, it's the state's last remaining atmospheric theatre.

Excerpts from a Tacoma Tribune feature story by Bart Ripp, published August 1995

Clipper ships sail from painted windows, bound for glory beyond Seventh Street. Egyptian charioteers are immortalized in terra cotta up near the roof's red Mediterranean tiles. Inside, stars twinkle in a sky without sunshine. The stars illuminate a Spanish villa far from Spain. Peacocks preen in a fountain where kids have tossed pennies since 1928. This is better than any movie.

Outside, the neon sign tells the world that the Seventh Street Theatre lives again, not in Hollywood, but in Hoquiam.

Nothing like the Seventh Street theatre exists anywhere in Washington or the Pacific Northwest. The Seventh Street was the first and survives as the last of the atmospheric theaters, theaters designed to create a mood.

Built in 1928 as Washington's first talking motion picture theater, the Seventh Street endures because Hoquiam won't let this grand place die. The Seventh Street has become a community cultural center in a gritty town where heroes built, nourished, and finally saved, the theater.

The first hero was a Norwegian immigrant, Olaf T. Taylor, who envisioned the Seventh Street as "Hoquiam's theatre beautiful." Architect Edwin St. John Griffith designed the building which was backed financially by Hoquiam businessman Ed Dolan. Taylor fancied a theater aswirl in light, mood and dreams.

Thick doors, enriched with studded nails and bolstered by perforated sheets, start the effect of walking into a Spanish villa. The ticket booth is a facet of blue and gold tiles.

In the lobby are wooden beams painted to resemble grape vines and cast-iron sconces that illuminate the foyer with a golden glow. Between the restrooms is a fountain, ornately tiled in blue and gold, guarded by an Art Nouveau peacock. Goldfish once swam in the fountain.

Walk through a dark door, up a ramp and into the theater. Lit from behind by colored lamps, the auditorium shimmers with balconies, iron-grilled windows, spiral columns, arched doorways, plaster urns, real ivy and poplars shellacked and planted in 1928, and arched emblems with the words COMEDY, TRAGEDY, DRAMA, CINEMA. And twinkling like fireflies are holes punched in the plaster ceiling to suggest the constellation Orion. Stars always shine on the Seventh Street.

Taylor planned a mood—a Spanish courtyard swathed in velour curtains beneath a starry sky.

The theater had hosted Will Rogers' rope tricks, Leontyne Price singing, Paul Robeson acting, movies, concerts, plays, prizefights and wrestling matches. But the Seventh Street almost died. Hoquiam volunteers saved the Seventh Street.



Galvanizing the town was a Hoquiam councilwoman, Else Korvell, who spent the last 15 years of her life organizing meetings, giving talks, celebrating the theater's legacy and saving the theater. Korvell died in 1988.

Resuscitating the theater were some 1,000 subscribers to cultural events, a handful of volunteers, and Ed Bowers, a retired paving contractor. Bowers donated \$103,000 to buy the property in 1986, and kept chipping in money, along with state grants, for \$500,000 worth of repair and renovations.

"The list of things we need to do is endless," he said, "but when the theater's full, it's the greatest feeling in the world."

A creaky wooden staircase leads up to the dressing rooms. It feels like an old railroad hotel where geezers drink rotgut whisky, smoke cheap cigars and look out the window on Hoquiam.

Backstage is where you'll find one more hero. Bob Brawley has been a member of the American Federation of Musicians since 1950. He played saxophone, clarinets, drums and bass fiddle in Las Vegas acts. He thought he came to Hoquiam to retire.

"I used to play music, but now I sweep the floor," Brawley said. "I put in 20, 30 hours a week, easy. My work here is never finished. I pray that the theater will be finished in my lifetime, but I don't think so."

Down those backstage steps, out on the stage where footlights illuminated Will Rogers' ropes and jokes, down again into the rows of leather and wood seats, Brawley loves to stop at the orchestra pit and whisper. His hushed voice accentuates the superb acoustics.

Brawley says he is the theater's ghost. But on softly backlit balconies, with stars twinkling and the theater sighing, Bob Brawley is a prince. He rules a magic castle on starry nights when clipper ships sail over Seventh Street.

Editor's note: The Wurlitzer records show a Style "B" organ, Opus 789, was shipped to the Hoquiam Seventh Avenue Theatre February 27, 1924. This may have been a prior Seventh Avenue Theatre as this newspaper article states the existing theatre was constructed in 1928. Another conflicting notation indicates this instrument may have been enlarged to seven ranks. (Very possibly if and when it went into the present building.) Further records show that the organ was removed from the theatre in 1944 and installed in Trinity Lutheran Church, Parkland. In 1969 it was removed from the church and sold to George Martin of Tacoma for \$900.

Thanks to member Doug Owen for sending us this interesting article.

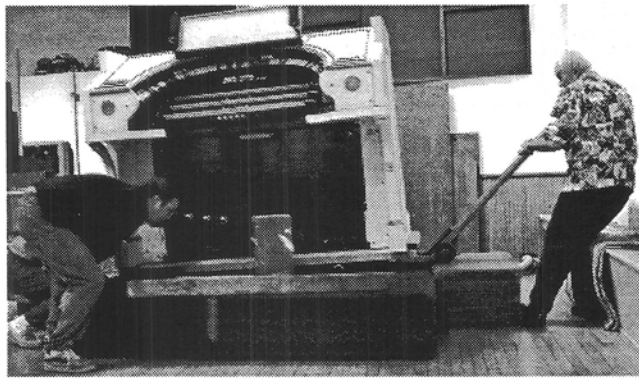


1929

Haller Lake organ platform gets facelift—what an improvement!

Early on a recent Sunday morning, a crew assembled at Haller lake, equipped with a roll of new red carpeting, tools, heavy moving equipment, coffee and goodies. The goal—replacement of the thirty-four-year-old very tired, torn and soiled carpeting covering the organ platform.

This was no small chore. It required a solid wood moving board, dollies, a wheeled heavy-duty leverage bar, some moving skills, and LOTS of muscle.



In the first picture the console is being moved off the platform toward the wall, where one end eventually rested on the window seat. Two people lifted the opposite end, two others pushed the platform out from under the console, and a fifth person quickly moved a large wooden box in place to support the suspended end. A precarious perch, to say the least!

The platform was originally carpeted in 1968, and the backing had disintegrated into fine dust, which came off in clouds as the carpet was ripped off.

The pictures tell the rest of the story. The new carpeting looks beautiful with the color blending perfectly with the stage curtains.

Right: The workers, Barbara Graham, Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Tom Blackwell and Bob Zat, "try out" the finished platform before the console is moved back in place.

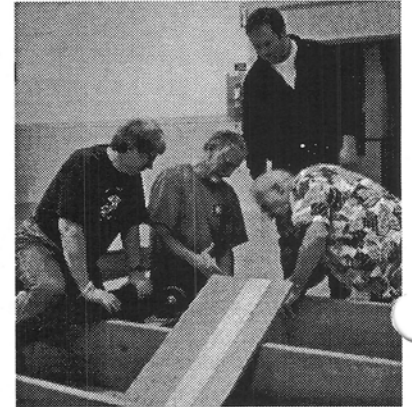
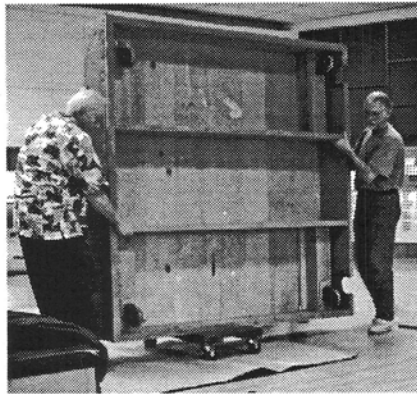
Far right: The console once again rests on the finished platform. Beautiful!

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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Russ and Bob tack the new carpeting in place.



Above left: The console is eased from its platform. One end rested on the window seat, the other on a large wooden box.
Above center: The platform is jockeyed into position to receive its new covering.
Above right: Barbara Graham, Bob Zat, Tom Blackwell and Russ Evans size up the task at hand.

