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PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

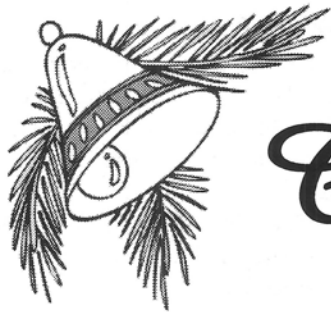
Published monthly by Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society, a non-profit organization
furthering the appreciation, preservation and use of the Theatre Pipe Organs of yesteryear

Volume 13, No. 11/12

November/December 2002



PUGET SOUND
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY



Come to the big annual PSTOS

Christmas Party!

Featuring

ANDY CROW

At the PSTOS Theatre Pipe Organ
with your favorite holiday music!



Enjoy . . .

- Our famous holiday buffet!
- Angel's and Devil's punch!
- Holiday fun and camaraderie!

Please bring a small plate of finger food for our famous Holiday Buffet. **NOTE: If your last name begins with A-M, please bring non-sweets such as small sandwiches, veggie plate, deviled eggs, etc. If your last name begins with N-Z, please bring sweets.**

Sunday, Dec. 8th, 2:00 pm

Haller Lake Community Club

12579 Densmore Ave. N., Seattle

Admission is free, but bring munchies!



A brief Annual Meeting will precede the festivities, with election & installation of 2003 officers.

DRIVE DIRECTIONS—Northbound I-5: Use Exit 174 onto NE 130th St., turn left over freeway one long block to 1st Ave. N.E. Turn left (south) one block to 128th*. Right on N.E. 128th a few blocks to Densmore. Left on Densmore, clubhouse is on the right. Parking both front and rear. Elevator at the back. Southbound I-5: Use Exit 175 onto N.E. 145th, turn right one block to 1st Ave. N.E. Left (south) through N.E. 130th to N.E. 128th. Continue where underlined above.

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Vol. 13, No. 11/12 – November/December 2002

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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



Oktoberfest was a terrific success! We had almost 150 people attend this 'new' event. This was our first attempt at such a 'fest' and, based on comments from those attending, it may remain on the top of our list of events. Many, many thanks to Marilyn Schrum for organizing the preparation of and baking the homemade apple crisp; to Bob Zat for 'everything' including setting up the hall, arranging for (and picking up) our beer; to JoAnn Evans for preparing 50 pounds of hot German potato salad; to Russ Evans for helping prepare the potato salad, selling tickets and all the other things too numerous to mention; to Loretta Moore for selling tickets; to Betty Chang for acting as 'food monitor', to Clint Meadway who was our MC; to the great members and guests who judged our stein contest; to Ellen Sullivan who decorated the hall, made the coffee and helped serve our meal; to Carl Kehret who played his German Street Organ; and to Hokum W. Jeebs and the Ballard Sedentary Sousa Band for providing our great German entertainment. It takes many hours of preparation time to make an event like this a success. Please join me in thanking all those above (and any I might have forgotten). Prosit!!!

Your Nomination Committee, chaired by Marilyn Schrum, has submitted their slate of those who have accepted nomination to the PSTOS Board. They are:

President:	Clint Meadway
Vice President:	Bill Keller
Secretary:	Bob Zat
Treasurer:	Norman Miller
Board Member:	Andy Crow
Board Member:	Diane Whipple

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at our Christmas Party/Annual Meeting on December 8th.

The last event for 2002 is our Christmas Party/Annual Meeting being held Sunday, December 8th at the Haller Lake Community Club. We'll have lots of fun and seasonal music. Those with last names

OTHER Events of Interest

Enjoy the Wurlitzer at West Seattle's Hokum Hall

The Hokum Show

A weekly variety show starring Hokum Jeebs, and featuring local, national and international musical and variety acts and silent films accompanied by the Wurlitzer.

Every Fri. & Sat., 8 PM through the holidays. December Sunday matinees at 3 PM.

Hokum Hall New Year's Bash

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 8 PM.

Reservations required.

7904 35th Ave. SW, Seattle

206-937-3613, or visit

www.hokumhall.org

Barry Baker at Salem's Elsinore Theatre

Barry is an outstanding theatre organist of international fame. ATOS Organist Of The Year in 1999, he is a frequent performer at major venues across the U.S. as well as in Australia. His program at Olympia's Center for the Performing Arts earlier this year was a spectacular success. Barry's presentation will be worth the drive!

Sunday, Nov. 24, 2 PM.

Info: 503-665-6633

Dorothy Watson and Susan Westmacot at Bellingham

Mt. Baker T.O.S. celebrates the holidays with the Wurlitzer and a wonderful program of music.

Sunday, Dec. 22, 2 pm

beginning with A-M bring non-sweet finger food; N-Z sweet finger food. PSTOS will provide punch and coffee. See you there!

This is my last 'President's Message.' I want to thank the Board for their support and hard work and I want to thank YOU, PSTOS Members, for participating in our events!

My best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year!

Thank you all.— Barbara Graham

PSTOS

Coming Events

Tentative 2003 Program Schedule

The PSTOS Program Committee met in October to plan events for 2003. Although not all events are completely firmed up, below is the tentative list.

Added this year will be a series of four "Home Parties," an idea borrowed from our good Australian friends. These events will be casual social get-togethers, without a featured organist. Participants will be asked to bring their music, and a small plate of finger foods to share. These informal events will provide an opportunity to play for others while guests wander, chat, and nibble. Reservations will be required as seating will be limited to the numbers each home can accommodate. The locations are spread around the area— Mercer Island, Bellevue, Kenmore, Olympia—hopefully making it easy for you to attend at least one.

Your Program Committee hopes you will find these to be enjoyable activities!

- January 18 – Home party**, Evans home, Kenmore
- February 16 – Valentine's Day concert and party**, HLCC
- March 16– Bob Ralston at the** Paramount Theatre
- April 5 – Home party**, Carl & Halie Dodrill home, Mercer Island
- Early May – Tentative major concert**
- June 21 – Home party**, Bill Keller home, Olympia
- July – Summer Social & concert**, Jack & Mary Lou Becvar home
- August 9 – Home party**, Ray & Muriel Whelpley home, Bellevue
- August 20-24– AMICA Convention**, Portland, w/Jonas Nordwall at the Oaks Park Rink organ
- September – Tentative major concert**
- October 19 – Big event at Haller Lake Community Club** (Would you like another OKTOBERFEST?)
- Dec. 7 – Holiday Party at HLCC**

IDEAS? Contact a Board Member NOW so your ideas can be considered!

From the Mailbox

Roy Williams points out a need for an explanation of theatre pipe organ terms for those who love the music but are unfamiliar with "organ jargon."

Dear Editors,

I just received the latest Pipeline and it reminded me that I was going to suggest a new column for the newsletter.

I think PSTOS used to be made up of genuine organ 'experts' and you could talk 'organ jargon' and know what the other was talking about. Now, I think that some of the new members—including myself—and many of the people I've talked into joining—love to listen to the theatre pipe organ but are not expert organists and are not as versed in the 'terminology' as some of the older members. And we're too proud to admit that we don't understand a thing you're talking about when you say this rank or that rank or 16/32 or 95/46 or whatever.

Is there a chance one of you experts could give a simple lesson in each news letter to bring the rest of us up-to-speed over time? If we understood the jargon, it would probably increase our enjoyment of what you're talking about. (I also suspect that a significant number of the people who pretend to know what they are talking about wouldn't mind to really find out what the terms mean.)

Thanks, Roy Williams

Norm Schmidt, whose picture appeared in the August Pipeline as part of the restoration crew working on the

A warm welcome to the following new members

- Fred & Eva Beek (Alaska!)
- Jason Denonville • Carl & Peg Kehre
- Joe McLeod & Pam Felt
- Eileen Parker • Jonathan Paulson
- Arthur & Barbara Pozner
- Glenn & Carolyn White
- Dick & Linda Wilcox

FOUND at Oktoberfest—a large blue mug with musical decoration. Please phone 425-485-5465 to claim.

Vancouver Orpheum Wurlitzer, sends this update about the instrument today.

Hello to my friends in the Seattle area (and Bellingham, as well)

The Vancouver Orpheum Theatre will be celebrating its 75th birthday during the months of October and November, with many public events planned over this time, specifically featuring the theatre...but not the Wurlitzer.

Unfortunately, they have not published a brochure of the events so I am unable to share the times with you. I do know that Phantom of the Opera is planned with music by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. I am advised that there is, at this time, nothing involving the 3/13 Wurlitzer. I will attempt to get more information to you, and you may get some information on the Vancouver Civic Theatre web page:

www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/theatres

Being, perhaps, one of the few remaining members of the restoration crew of the instrument 25 years ago (when it was a mere 50 years old!) I am saddened by the lack of interest in the instrument. I get in to play it, maybe, twice a year, but the percussions are very 'spotty' in response, and the tremulant is not what it should be (I understand that it is maintained by a classical instrument technician).

However, the 'old girl' is still in the theatre (the last T.O. in Canada in its original installation) and maybe it will be 'found' by some enthusiasts--long after we're gone!

Talk to ya again.

Norm Schmidt
mailto:nschmidt@dowco.com

Pipe Organ Terminology

MANUAL – The organ name for a keyboard. Organs usually have at least two manuals played with the hands, plus a pedalboard played with the feet. When numbers such as "4/48" or "3/13" are used to describe an organ, the first number indicates the number of manuals. The second number tells the number of "ranks" – which will be defined next month. Watch this column each month!

Pages From The Past...

In 1971 GAYLORD CARTER performed at Seattle's Paramount Theatre. Don Duncan wrote this story for The Seattle Times.

Retired theatre organist keeps busy playing organ

When Gaylord Carter voluntarily ended his long reign as organist for the L.A. Lakers pro-basketball team in 1971, many thought it was a big mistake. He was only 66, and what he had in mind was going on the road with a silent film, "The Winning of Barbara Worth."

Carter isn't a bit sorry about his decision. He has a six-month lease on the film, and he's got the best of all possible worlds—"Medicare and fun."

"Besides," he says, "I no longer have to wonder what to play when the Seattle Sonics come on the floor in the Los Angeles Forum. The best I could ever figure to do for them was "Heaven Help the Foes of Washington..."

Carter is one of a handful of theatre organists to become nationally famous. Another would be Seattle's own Oliver Wallace, of "Hindustan" fame, who went on to become musical director for Walt Disney and stayed until he was 75, dying just two weeks after retirement.

In 1932, Carter was "house organist" at Seattle's Paramount. He loved the city and audiences liked the way his fingers created the proper mood to go with the screen's romance, humor, death and assorted catastrophes.

During Franklin D. Roosevelt's first campaign for the presidency, Carter was chosen to play the National Anthem for the candidate's speech to a Seattle audience.

The University Rotary Club is sponsoring Carter's "Barbara Worth," which has received smash reviews from normally blasé Los Angeles movie critics. Although it was filmed in 1926, the Henry King-directed silent flick remains a monumental chunk of celluloid, based on bringing irrigation to California's Imperial Valley.

When "Barbara Worth" originally opened in Los Angeles 45 years ago [1926], Carter recalls that he was playing a theatre organ down the street for another epic, the silent version of "Ben-Hur."

"Barbara Worth" stars Ronald Colman and Vilma Banky, along with a newcomer who showed up at Culver City, Calif., one day and said "Yup" he was interested in becoming an actor. His name was Gary Cooper and Sam Goldwyn signed him for "Barbara Worth" when the actor who was

supposed to play the second male lead failed to show up.

Cooper's contract, a copy of which Carter produced, paid \$50 a week, with the provision that Cooper furnish his own wardrobe, right down to his shoes and underwear.



Carter, who began playing theatre organs when he was 16 "because I didn't have a dime to go to the movies," says the film opens with a great sandstorm and ends with the catastrophic breaking of a dam that wipes out the valley. And Carter will stack up his sandstorm and catastrophe music against anyone's.

In between the hell and high water, there is a love triangle between Miss Banky, Colman and Cooper. Carter won't tell who wins the girl but "you must remember that Cooper was the 50-buck-a-week newcomer."

King, the director, literally built a city on location in the Black Rock Desert of Nevada, transporting equipment, food, housing and several thousand actors across trackless wastes in a logistics exercise worthy of a WWII general.

Carter has had several months to develop his accompaniment since the film was pulled out of the storage can in which

it had languished for so many years. But he still improvises at times. He opens with a theme he wrote and calls simply, "waving fields of grain," to describe the blooming of the soil.

Carter admits to going mildly berserk at the keyboard during the sandstorm. He switches to a Spanish theme for the "love stuff," because the three principals are supposed to be talking in Spanish. Try "Yup" in Spanish sometime.

The organist unashamedly pulls out all the stops for the flood scene, which he describes as "Furioso No. 17" music. There is nothing more dramatic in Carter's repertoire. He might faint dead away if he attempted No. 18.

It is Carter's hope that he blends music with action so skillfully that audiences get caught up in the drama and forget the part the organ is playing in their excitement.

Thanks to a strong Theatre Organ Enthusiasts of America organization in Seattle [now PSTOS], the Paramount's 22-rank Wurlitzer is in mint condition, Carter says. All he asks is good equipment. He can do the rest.

The trick in accompanying silent films is anticipating the action. The organist had a fleeting moment to capture the mood musically. To look away from the screen, even momentarily, could be disastrous. Doing background music not long ago for the silent film, "Ella Cinders," Carter missed a bell-ringing scene. He played "ding-dong" on the organ at the conclusion of the film, "because I didn't want the audience to feel cheated."

Playing recently in Chicago's Oriental Theater, Carter's imminent arrival by way of a hydraulically operated organ in the pit was announced by a breathless master of ceremonies. Carter pushed the elevator button and nothing happened. He climbed on stage and said he would play the organ until they got the thing moving.

Returning to the pit, he played "Asleep In The Deep" and he slowly arose from the deep.

Carter likes Seattle. He thinks Seattle will like "Barbara Worth" and the 1920s sing-a-long that precedes the opening curtain.

It's C-rated. C, for Carter.

[Gaylord died in Nov. 2000 at age 95]

Oktoberfest! A great time was had by all!



ABOVE: Professor Hokum W. Jeebs complete with tuba and wig.

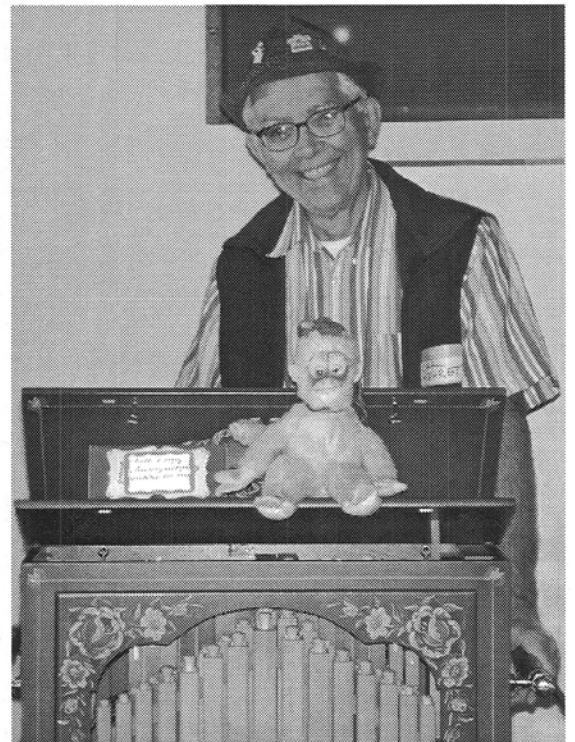


ABOVE: Hokum and four members of the Ballard Sedentary Sousa Band provided uproarious entertainment for the 150 folks attending Oktoberfest.

BELOW: Just a few of the nearly 50 HLCC members who joined PSTOS forgreatime. Thanks to all the Haller Lake foks who supported this event!



ABOVE: PSTOS Board Member Jackie Cedarholm (on the right) and friends. **BELOW:** A great group of fun-loving folks drove from Bellingham to join the fun. Thanks to **Bill Charles** (back right) who organized the trip.



ABOVE: Carl Kehret demonstrates his remarkable reproduction of an antique German Street Organ.

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors

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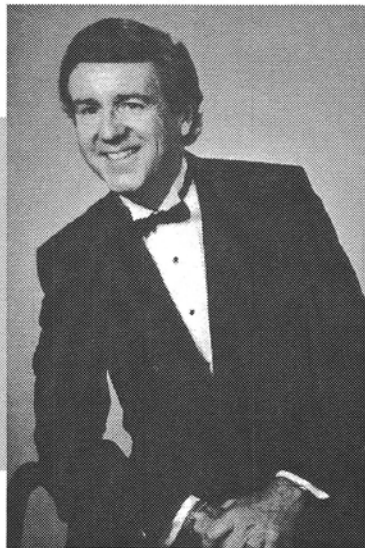


RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

COMING IN MARCH 2003...

The Lawrence Welk
Orchestra's
BOB RALSTON

*In an afternoon of
Music and Memories*
at Seattle's historic
PARAMOUNT THEATRE



This event is part of the
Paramount's 75th Anniversary Celebration and
features Bob at the **PARAMOUNT WURLITZER.**

Sunday, March 16, 2003 – 2:30 PM

Tickets from \$15

Available through Ticketmaster or the Paramount box office.

Special group rates will be available.

Watch for details in the next Pipeline.

Need more information? Phone Clint Meadway toll-free at 1-877-843-0953.

Leave a message and he will return your call.

Presented by Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society

Closing Chord

Millie Lawrence

1914 – 2002

Millie was an active member of PSTOS for as long as almost anyone can recall. In an archival copy of the 1974 membership



roster, Millie was listed as Membership Chair, with responsibilities to "provide name tags, handle items for sale, display bulletins from other chapters, and provide membership forms." Her husband, Les, was a Board Member.

Later she served as Secretary, as Local Publicity Chair, and as Sunshine Chair.

Millie's warm and friendly personality was always a joy. A number of PSTOS members helped celebrate her 80th birthday in 1994. In 1997 she moved to Camano Island to be near her son, and her presence at events became rare.

Sincere PSTOS sympathy is extended to Millie's son and grandchildren. She will be greatly missed by all those who knew her.

Stu Smalles

Stuart Smalles, a strong supporter of our PSTOS scholarship program, passed away unexpectedly October 23. An ardent patron of the arts in the Seattle area, his primary interest was in theater, and most especially in Broadway musicals. His family and friends request his memory be honored by taking a friend to the theater.