

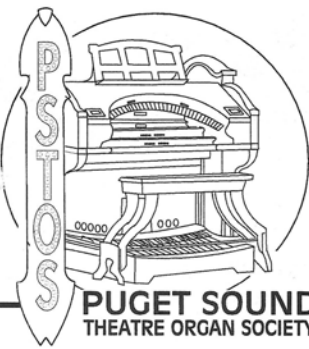
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PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

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 14 No. 8

August 2003



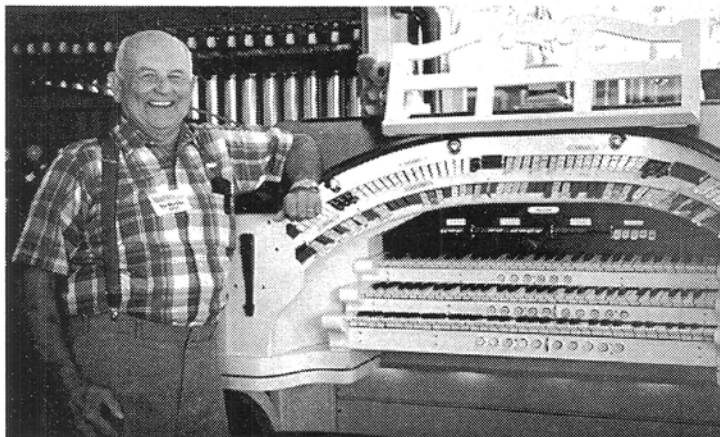
Another fun PSTOS HOME PARTY

Saturday Aug. 9th, 2–5pm

Home of Ray & Muriel Whelpley
335 105th AV SE • Bellevue

- Another opportunity to play a genuine Wurlitzer!
- Bring your music and take your turn!
- Socialize and nibble! Enjoy getting together.
- This is the last Home Party in 2003—don't miss it!

***There's no charge, but please bring a small plate of
finger food to share. Beverages will be furnished.***



**Reservations
not required.**

The Whelpleys have a beautiful 3-
manual Wurlitzer and a working
player piano in their lower level
music room. Ray's restoration work
is impeccable, something everyone
should try to emulate!

IMPORTANT PARKING INFORMATION

There are about six parking spaces on the lower level of the Whelpley property which provide direct access—no stairs—to the lower level music room. PLEASE reserve these special spaces for folks with limited mobility. Ample street parking is available for everyone else. **THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**

DRIVE DIRECTIONS—From I-405 take the 8th St. Exit westbound, drive to Bellevue Way. Turn south (left) and drive about 8 blocks to Main St. Turn east (left) onto Main and drive one block to 105th AV SE. Turn south (right) on 105th, drive up the hill about 3 blocks to 335 105th AV SE. House is on the west side of the street.

From Seattle and I-90, take the Bellevue Way Exit, follow Bellevue Way all the way to Main St.. Turn east (right) on Main one block to 105th AV and continue as underlined above.

From Hwy 520 take the Bellevue Way exit southbound, drive all the way to Main St. Turn east (left) on Main one block to 104th AV and continue as underlined above.

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Published monthly by
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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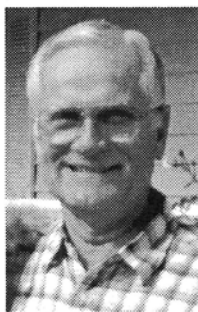
Listing of non-PSTOS events in the Pipeline

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



Seattle's Paramount Theatre is rapidly becoming the show-place for theatre organ music in the Northwest. As a result of behind the scene work by Tom Blackwell and the PSTOS "Publix Team" along with suggestions to management by house organist Dennis James, the Wurlitzer is becoming recognized as an important part of the "Paramount Theatre experience." For the Paramount's 75th anniversary month, the Wurlitzer was used before and during the Tony Bennett show, for Bob Ralston's "God Bless America" program and the silent film *Wings* accompanied by Tedde Gibson.

In July, the theatre presented Silent Movie Mondays, all of them westerns! Tom reports: "The Wurlitzer worked flawlessly again tonight. Dennis did a great job with the two movies. In his pre-show comments, Dennis asked for a show of hands for those who had never seen a silent movie before...and it was nearly a third of the audience! What a great way to expose people to the Mighty Wurlitzer!" You know, it is too bad more of us PSTOS members don't show up for these movies. They are a lot of fun.

The Paramount has public tours on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00AM. At July's tour, Tom gave a brief talk about the organ and then let the computer play a couple of numbers recorded by Andy Crow. The audience left with smiles on their faces. The playback will now be a regular part of the tours. A group of the tour guides got to visit the Solo chamber while Carl Dodrill demonstrated pipes, percussions and swell shutters. The guides were very appreciative and sent Tom a thank you note! I think we can count on several new Wurlitzer fans!

Coming up in August is an ice show with Olympic stars. A bonus for PSTOS members is the nine public ice skating sessions with LIVE MUSIC FROM THE MIGHTY WURLITZER!! See the article in this Pipeline.

Now, here is the pitch-- Your PSTOS

PSTOS Coming Events

Home party!

Ray & Muriel Whelpley home, Bellevue.
Another opportunity to hear and play a beautifully restored Wurlitzer!
Saturday, August 9, 2 PM

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. See page 6 for complete information.

August 20-24

Pipes With Pizza at Haller Lake Community Club

Another terrific pizza and music event!
Sunday, October 5



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

A benefit program for both PSTOS and Children's Home Society of Washington.
Sunday afternoon, November 9

Annual PSTOS Christmas Party Sunday, December 7

Publix Team works long and hard getting the organ into top shape. The Paramount is providing the kind of programs we have been asking for. They stay in business only by selling tickets. Go to the shows and when you buy your ticket, let the box office know you are part of PSTOS. Wear your name tag at the events so people can ask you questions and you can tell them about PSTOS. Check the Paramount's website

www.theparamount.com

and attend the shows that use the organ! If we support these shows, the Paramount will continue to offer them. See you on the ice.

...Clint Meadway, President

From The MAILBOX

The following letter from Esther Geddes McVey is in response to the article published in May about the Robert Morton pipe organ being installed by Don Wallin in the Merlyn & Walter Johnson home in Tacoma. That Pipeline passed through several hands before reaching her in Rancho Mirage, CA. Thanks, Esther for sending your interesting story!
See more about this instrument on page 5.

Greetings;

I was greatly interested in the story about the "new" theatre organ Don Wallin is installing for the Johnsons in Tacoma. I was a part of that organ's history and was pleased that the story sent to [PSTOS members] Lee and Barbara Wells and then given to George Churchill in Lacey, WA, was sent to me.

When the organ was in the Indian Theatre in Roseburg, Oregon, I used to do a radio "happy hour" of organ music from there and will never forget the day during a broadcast in the darkened empty theatre when I looked down to my right and saw the hugest rat I ever imagined about six feet away on the floor seemingly mesmerized by the organ music. I thought if it moved,

I would go off the air without warning! But when I played my closing theme and looked nervously down, the musical rat had disappeared.

My husband and children used to get free admission to shows from Don Radabeau if I played for fifteen minutes or so before the show.

I had acquired the job of organist at the Methodist Church when I was a twenty year old (precocious I guess) teacher at Sutherlin High School and the church acquired a Hammond organ and found out that thirteen miles away was a teacher who had studied organ with Leon F. Drews of Portland (he did radio shows from the Heathman Hotel). So the Music Committee chairman provided transportation for me to come play for services and a vesper program and finally married me (and saved the gasoline). Then I became the organist and later also the choir director (with my left hand) while playing the organ.

When I heard the organ in the Indian Theatre was going to be disposed of we managed to raise ten thousand dollars to move it and have it installed in the church, and we also had the bass and snare drums and marimba and a few other theatrical effects removed. We kept the chimes and of course the original ranks.

Pipe organ was and still is my music obsession and I still do some piano and organ teaching. When my new husband (for thirty one years) Tyler McVey, long time old radio and TV and stage actor, and I do re-creations of old time radio shows, I am usually responsible for the theme music etc. We have enjoyed being guests at the REPS (Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound) in Seattle at the end of June for many many years at which time the wonderful surviving actors who were part of old time radio get together and enjoy the fans, many of them quite young, who still think radio is the theatre of the mind, and television is the theatre of the mindless.

Sorry this is such a long letter—my husband Tyler McVey says I can say in a thousand words what he can say in ten. Alas.

Oh, and the George Churchill who forwarded the story to me was a tenor in the really quite good choir we had for many years.

My cousin's husband Frank De Lepinasse in Woodburn, Oregon, is a long time organ enthusiast, I think a member of the American Guild of Organists, and I am wondering is perhaps he is involved with your group at all.

Sincerely,
Esther Miller Geddes McVey

Other Northwest Theatre Organ Events

Hokum Hall Happenings in August

Andy Crow at the Wurlitzer, song stylist **Jesse Garnée**, theatre tunes by **Teresa Thuman, Aug 1 & 2, 8PM**

Peter Mintun, society pianist, plus cabaret artistry of **Laurie Clothier & David Duvall**, high-flying soprano **Jackie Koreski, Aug 8 & 9, 8PM**

Peter Mintun, juggling clown **Bruce Johnson**, Broadway Baby **Amanda Paulson**, Voiceworks of **Scott Farrell, Aug 15 & 16, 8PM**

Cornucopia Concert Band, English Music Hall vocalist **Richard Hodsdon**, **Mysterious Philemon Vanderbeck, Aug 29 & 30, 8PM**

Enjoy the wonderful Hokum Hall Wurlitzer!

7904 35th Ave. SW, Seattle • 206-937-3613 • hokumhall@earthlink.net

Jonas Nordwall plays orchestral transcriptions for organ on the new 80 stop Allen. All Pilgrims Christian Church Concert Series. Located at the corner of Broadway and Republican on Capitol Hill. **Sun., Aug 17, 7:30PM**

Information at www.allpilgrims.org • 425-869-6651

PIPE ORGAN Terminology

en Chamade pipes

(pronounced ahn shaMOD)

A rank of loud reed pipes located outside the pipe chambers in the auditorium, usually clearly visible.

These are usually very loud and powerful pipes, generally a member of the trumpet family, used to accent or punctuate a full organ sound.

A perfect example of en Chamade pipes are the brass trumpet pipes mounted horizontally high in the room in the Wilcox Wurlitzer home in Gig Harbor. They are used sparingly and will instantly wake a dozing listener!

Pages From The Past..

The May Pipeline told of the Robert Morton pipe organ being installed in the Tacoma home of Merlyn and Walter Johnson. This project, masterminded by Don Wallin, is progressing well.

A brief overview of the instrument's interesting history: Installed in 1924 in Roseburg Oregon's Indian Theatre, it was removed to a Methodist Church in 1944. The church was destroyed by a bizarre and tragic accident when a parked truck loaded with explosives

caught fire and exploded, killing 13 people and demolishing much downtown Roseburg including the church. The organ somehow survived and was moved to Leonard Vernon's Astoria home.

Mr. Vernon's home was visited by many well-known organists. In February of 1962 these articles appeared in a local newspaper telling of a 1962 ATOE Regional meeting which included the use of the Robert Morton pipe organ.

Theater Organ Enthusiasts to Meet in Astoria

Members of the American Theatre Organ Enthusiasts [now American Theatre Organ Society] from Western Canada, Washington and Oregon will meet this Saturday in Astoria.

The ATOE was featured this week in Time Magazine as one of the finest organ clubs in America.

About 100 members and friends are expected to attend the all-day, all-night meeting. Reginald Stone from England and former organist of the BBC, but now living in Vancouver, B.C., will be the featured organist, during this event. Members will register at the home of Leonard Vernon and there be treated to silent movies accompanied by Stone on the Vernon Robert-Morton theatre pipe organ just as it used to be done in the 20s. After the movies, and everyone has had a try at the organ, the members of the Puget Sound Chapter will move their operation down to the Sea Fare for a banquet, business meeting and election of officers.

From the Sea Fare the group will then be entertained by another of its members, Dave Newman, owner of Radio Service. Newman is a collector of antique mechanical musical instruments.

Finally the group will meet at Bill Blunk's Viking Roller Rink and again hear Stone on the great five manual Marr and Colton theatre pipe organ. After the concert there will be an all night jam session by members of the club.

It is expected that there will be many well known organists from the Pacific Northwest attending.



The Robert-Morton console as it appeared in the home of Leonard Vernon.

Guest Organist Thrills Members at ATOE Meeting

The first regional quarterly meeting for 1962 of the American Theatre organ Enthusiasts was held in Astoria Saturday, February 10. [1962]

The members first met at Leonard Vernon's residence to register and hear his Robert Morton theatre pipe organ.

Minutes before the program was to start, a telegram was received stating that the English organist, Reggie Stone, who was to be the guest artist for the afternoon, could not attend. Bill Blunk filled in at the organ console to get the afternoon program started, after which members took their turns. Many of the members of ATOE have

theatre pipe organs installed in their homes.

There were 90 people registered at the Vernon home, and when the festivities ended there, they moved to the Sea Fare restaurant. After a banquet dinner, the 1962 officers were elected. Leonard Vernon was elected secretary-treasurer and Bill Blunk was elected chairman for the Pacific Northwest, which encompasses Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, Canada.

Don Baker the guest artist for the evening, was then introduced, a real surprise to the 82 members at the banquet. Three short movies were shown, the last of which featured Don Baker playing a sing-along movie in 1937— a surprise to both Mr. and Mrs. Baker. Continued next page.

FOR SALE

Organ Stuff

FOR SALE- LESLIE SPEAKER, model 420, four channel. Solid state, excellent condition. Best offer FOB Spokane, WA. For more information please phone Vern Schwartz at 509-926-2761

List your For Sale items here. Description and contact info only, please.. Mail or email the editors at address on this publication.

Pages From The Past..

...continued

The meeting then adjourned to the basement of Radio Service Company where David Newman showed and played for the guests many mechanical musical instruments, calliopes, merry-go-round organs, music boxes and theatre pit organs.

At 10 p.m. all members converged at the Viking roller rink, where after the skating session was over the huge Marr and Colton theatre pipe organ console was rolled to the center of the floor under the spot lights. At this time the featured artists of the evening, Don Baker, took command of the five-manual pipe organ. Baker, Capitol recording artist, is well known both in America and Europe for his concert tours. For 12 years he was solo organist for the Paramount Theatre in New York City, and has made countless record albums, movie shorts and was organist for many radio shows.

Baker entertained approximately 125 members and guests on the big rink organ with an hour program of music which had never been heard in this area according to those present. The audience was emotionally moved by his keyboard artistry and organ orchestrations.

After the guest artist had performed, the mighty pipe organ was played continuously until 4 a.m. Sunday morning by other members of ATOE.

EDITOR'S NOTE— Does an all night event appeal to any of us today???

COMING in August...Ice skate to the music of the Wurlitzer at the Paramount!

For only the second time in its 75-year history, the flat floor of the historic Paramount Theatre will be converted into an ice arena. **And, for the very first time, the public will be invited for a series of public skate sessions...with the Wurlitzer!**

In addition to the public skating, patrons are also invited to experience an all-new Seattle Ice Theatre production – *COLD FUSION* – a marriage of skating and dance, skating and theatre, and art and sport.

In October of 1999, Seattle-area patrons were introduced to this new art form of performance on ice when they experienced "Myriad." Seattle Ice Theatre returns for a brand new production – *COLD FUSION* – for four performances only –

Aug 8 @ 7:30pm

Aug. 9 @ 2:00 & 7:30 pm

Aug 10 @ 2:00 pm.

And for the first time ever, patrons will be able to participate in a series of 2-hour skate sessions. The fee of \$15



includes skates. **Skate to live organ accompaniment on the Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer!**

Public skate dates and times are

Aug. 5 @ 11AM & 7PM

Aug. 6 @ 11AM & 7PM

Aug. 7 @ 11AM & 7PM

Aug 8 @ 11AM & 3PM

Aug. 10 @ 5PM

Tickets on sale now through Ticketmaster or at The Paramount Box office (M – F, 10AM – 6PM) or on-line at www.theparamount.com

Volunteers... Helpers... Assistants... Team Members... All of the above...

Whatever you call them, they are **NECESSARY!** Running the functions, serving food and beverages, setting up tables, running errands, and cleaning up after functions are things that only people can do. If it looks like the same small group of people do everything, you've got it right. As your President, I want to go on record that participation in our club events and projects is not limited to an exclusive group. But it is limited to those who will offer their help because we don't have a "draft." We are all volunteers and don't want to be pushy. So, if you're willing to help, don't wait to be asked. Let one of your board members know you are available and we will get you involved. These are not big jobs! Every small effort helps and is appreciated. Look for the board members' ribbons on their name tags at the next function. We would love to work with you!

...Clint Meadway, Pres.

**Brilliant
teenage organist
from Germany,
FELIX HELL,
will play two
'don't-miss' concerts
September 12 & 14.
Tickets are
limited.
Order NOW!**

Perhaps the most accomplished teenage classical organist in the world, Germany's Felix Hell, will be playing the 50+ rank Casavant organ at First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue, Friday Sept. 12, at 7:30PM. He will play a different program on the 3/80 Fritts tracker pipe organ at Lagerquist Hall at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma on Sun., Sept. 14 at 3PM.

Felix began playing the organ at age 8, won his first awards at 9, studied in Moscow, and now at 17 is studying at the Julliard School in New York City under Dr. John Weaver. He has performed several hundred classical

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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concerts to rave reviews. He is also a most personable teen! With such characteristics, he has special appeal to young musicians. Each concert will be followed by a reception at which you can meet and chat with Felix.

The concerts are sponsored by the Pipe Organ Foundation headed by PSTOS member Dr. Carl Dodrill.

Admission— \$15 contribution for either concert, or \$25 for both. \$5 less for students and seniors (60+). Tickets are limited, phone early!

Ticketing and other information at
206-236-3492

www.pipeorganfoundation.org



Final reminder!

**PSTOS joins AMICA for their 2003 International Convention
(Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association)**

**JONAS NORDWALL
at the Oaks Park Roller Rink
Theatre Pipe Organ!**

**Ragtime Piano Concert by brilliant
young NATHAN BELLO!**

**All day tour of COLUMBIA GORGE
and the famous CAROUSEL
MUSEUM!**

**Tour of
SELLWOOD ANTIQUE ROW!**

**Banquet with entertainment
and dancing to the
DICK SAUNDERS ORCHESTRA!**

AND MUCH MORE!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION—The registration fee of \$225 per person includes:

- **Motor coach transportation to convention events**
- **Entrance fees to events**
- **FIVE meals (Thursday breakfast, sack lunch on Thursday tour, Friday breakfast, Saturday banquet, and Sunday breakfast.)**

Registration does not include lodging. The host hotel is the Doubletree Downtown Hotel at 310 SW Lincoln, Portland. Guaranteed room rate is \$99 per night and is guaranteed for 3 nights before and after the convention for those wishing to spend more days in and around Portland. There is free parking at the hotel for registered guests.

For a full informational packet and Registration Form, phone Carl Dodrill at 206-236-0067 or email him at carl@dodrill.net

THIS WILL BE A GREAT SUMMER GETAWAY. PSTOS Board Member Carl Dodrill is a moving force behind the planning and every detail has been covered. There is talk of organizing group transportation to Portland for PSTOS and AMICA members. Interested? Check with Carl at the number above and let him know! Let's all give serious consideration to this superb event!