



# PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

Volume 32, Nos.11 - 12 • Nov. -Dec., 2021

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*Best wishes for Happy Holidays  
from your PSTOS Board*



***SAVE the DATE!***

**Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm**

Meet up with your friends for

***Holiday Music and Fun***

At Haller Lake Community Club

12529 Densmore AV N, Seattle



PSTOS 3/10 Wurlitzer

***Enjoy some of your favorite festive holiday music  
by our PSTOS musicians, including Tyler Pattison,  
Jamie Snell, Jo Ann Evans, Estelle McMaster, and more***

***Short silent comedy with organ accompaniment***

***Watch your inbox for all the details  
coming soon***

**CDC and State Covid guidelines will be observed.  
Please have your proof of vaccination and your mask!**

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Vol. 32, Nos. 11– 12, Nov. – Dec., 2021

Published by

**Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society**

10002 Aurora Ave N, Suite 36 #516

Seattle, WA 98133-9329

*Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization furthering the appreciation, restoration, and use of the historic Theatre Pipe Organs of the 1920s, through education.*

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**Joining Puget Sound  
Theatre Organ Society is  
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Simply click on the link below and select your preferred level of membership.

- Secure!
- No checks!
- No stamps!
- A few clicks and it's done!

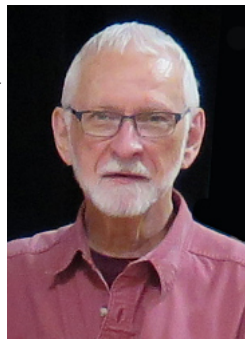


<http://www.pstos.org/membership/new-member.htm>

# PRESIDENT'S *Message*

## Greetings to PSTOS members, families, and friends

I had the pleasure of opening up the PSTOS Wurlitzer installed at the Haller Lake Community Club on a recent Friday afternoon to let a few Theatre Organ enthusiasts from Florida and Iowa play the instrument for a couple of hours.



Carrie and Mark Renwick from Florida and Dave Kelzenberg from Iowa were on an “Organ Crawl” of Puget Sound instruments. Jamie Snell graciously served as their contact person, chauffeur, tour guide, and overall entertainment director during their week long stay in Seattle. During this time they visited and played theatre, home, church, and community center instruments. From what I overheard, their time in Seattle was well worth the trip and a wonderful time to reconnect with friends.

Overall, the Theatre Organ world is a small

collection of like-minded individuals who are interested in these very unique musical instruments and it is always a pleasure to share, when possible, the various organ installations that dot the Puget Sound area.

Speaking of sharing a musical instrument, the PSTOS program planning committee is crafting a holiday program scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Haller Lake Community Club featuring the Chapter's own 3/10 Wurlitzer theatre organ. Programming details are still a “work in progress” so no specifics are available as I write this, but stay tuned for an update that will be more specific and outline the program activities for the day. We will be following all of the recommended state and CDC COVID-19 guidelines regarding group gatherings including masking and vaccinations. More on that later.

Don't forget to “fall back” regarding Daylight Saving Time and be sure to break out the warm clothing as we head into the gray skies and wet weather season.

I hope to see you at the December gathering.

Bob Zat, President, PSTOS

## *If ever you've wondered what is involved with maintaining the Wurlitzer at the Paramount Theatre, you will enjoy this recent report from Phil Hargiss, crew chief for that maintenance team*

Today I visited the theatre for the first time in a while, and accomplished the following:

1. After replacing many suspected defective ICs on the Piano output board a few weeks ago (with no apparent result), I more recently swapped what I'm pretty sure are the board address decoding chips, but was unable to test the result because I had neglected to reconnect the board's magnet power; today I did that. However, a stage crew construction project was blocking access to the basement, so I haven't been able to test the latest changes.

2. A couple of years ago I measured the 16' Quintadena pipes that Russ donated, to help determine how to fit them into the proposed Solo chamber enhancement scheme; a couple of days ago I looked at the numbers again, and realized that they seemed at least 20" too short. Thinking I might have mis-read the measuring tape in the dark, I measured a couple of pipes again today, and got the same numbers. The pipes are labeled from CCC to BB, which I would expect for a 16' octave. (The pitch

designation changes from three letters to two in the middle of the octave, which is consistent with Wurlitzer practice, but contrary to Audsley.) To my surprise, the BB pipe (to pick one example) sounds FF# (or FFF#, per Audsley). These pipes are the bottom octave of a 10-2/3' rank! I'm still thinking about what to make of this discovery.

3. Continuing a project begun a couple of months ago, I removed and examined the eight largest Tuba Mirabilis pipes on the C-side of the manual chest in the Solo chamber. Three of the tongues had slipped, and all but one of the wedges were at least a little loose. This has been an issue for years, but I hadn't realized how bad it was. (It's a factory defect: The holes in the blocks are not tapered to match the shallots, which consequently don't fit tightly.) I cleaned up the tongues and shallots, and shimmed the shallots with waxed paper to obtain a secure fit in the block. This made the wedges fit better, and I hope will keep the tongues in place.

Cheers, Phil

**In Memoriam  
Jack Laffaw  
1924 – 2021**



Jack passed away October 16 at the age of 96. He will be remembered by longtime PSTOS members as the person who, along with his wife Betty, owned Bellevue Pizza & Pipes from its opening in the mid-1970s until its closure in the early 1990s. Many PSTOS friends will fondly recall Jack's warm welcome when they enjoyed an evening out eating pizza and listening to the wonderful Wurlitzer.

The restaurant closed when the City of Bellevue purchased the land for an access road to Meydenbauer Convention Center. Jack and Betty then moved to Gig Harbor.

The Laffaws have been supportive PSTOS members for decades. Sincere sympathy goes to Betty, their children and grandchildren.

**FREE 1978 Wurlitzer electronic  
spinet organ Model 630T**



The organ is playable and no repairs are necessary. It is located in Everett, WA. It is free, only requirement is picking it up. Info: email Vanessa Wilyat at vwilyat@outlook.com

**The PSTOS Program Planning Team  
is tentatively scheduling 2022**

The Program Planning Team met recently for the first time in months. Tentative plans for 2022 include a social event at Haller Lake, and bringing back both Brett Valliant and Dave Wickerham for concerts. We'd like input from you! Please send your program ideas and other thoughts to

**joann@pstos.org**

Many thanks in advance!

**A BIG PSTOS WELCOME  
TO THESE NEW MEMBERS**

**Bruce Holroyd**

Anacortes WA

**William Swearingen**

Snohomish WA

**A message from new member  
Bruce Holroyd...**

Hi Jeff,

Thanks for the welcome message. I look forward to learning more and participating in activities PSTOS sponsors.

My wife and I relocated to Anacortes last year after spending the first 60 years of our lives in the Rochester, NY area. My dad was a founding member of the Rochester Theatre Organ Society (RTOS), which rubbed off onto me, and I have enjoyed concerts over the years. I have continued my membership with RTOS to help support the society.

I'm looking forward to future events by the PSTOS. Possibly at some point in the future, I may look to getting more involved with PSTOS.

Bruce Holroyd

**SPECIAL AGO Programs for  
Your Enjoyment During the Holidays**

**Thursday Nov. 4, 5:30 pm**

Choral Evensong at Epiphany Parish 1805 38th Avenue Seattle, WA 98122. Music by Orlando Gibbins and Thomas Luis de Victoria.

**Sunday Nov. 7, 4:30 pm**

Choral Evensong at St. Mark's Cathedral 1245 10<sup>th</sup> Ave E. Seattle 98102

**Sunday Nov. 7, 5:30 pm**

Solemn Requiem featuring Fauré's Requiem at Epiphany Episcopal 1805 38th Avenue Seattle, WA 98122. Offered both in person and online.

**Thursday Nov. 11, 5:30 pm**

Choral Evensong for St. Simon and St. Jude at Epiphany Parish 1805 38th Avenue Seattle, WA 98122. Music by Sumsion & William Harris.

**Sunday Nov. 14, 3:00 pm**

Young Organist, **Alec Manullang** presents his first solo organ recital at Westminster Chapel 13646 NE 24<sup>th</sup> St. Bellevue, WA 98005. Alec is a current student of Susan Bloomfield-Spangler and will be playing pieces by J.S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn and Charles-Marie Widor. Free admission, reception to follow. A count is needed for the reception so please RSVP to: [alec.manullang@gmail.com](mailto:alec.manullang@gmail.com)

**Sunday Nov. 14, 3:00 pm**

Concert by **Wyatt Smith** on the Fritts organ at Lagerquist Hall, PLU campus, Tacoma. \$17/10/5 Mask wearing and proof of vaccination required to attend.

**Sunday Nov. 14, 5:30 pm**

Choral Evensong at Epiphany Parish 1805 38th Avenue Seattle, WA 98122. Music by Walmisley and Herbert Howells

**Sunday November 7, 5:30 pm**

Evensong featuring Herbert Howell's Requiem

at Epiphany Episcopal 1805 38th Avenue Seattle, WA 98122. Offered both in person and online.

**Monday Nov. 15, 7:00 pm**

AGO chapter event. Organ Maintenance 101 for organists and an explanation of tuning temperaments. The presenter is Joe O'Donnell of Bond Organ Builders. Woodland Park Presbyterian Church 225 N. 70<sup>th</sup> St. Seattle WA 98103 (corner of Greenwood Ave N. & 70<sup>th</sup> St.)

**Thursday Nov. 18, 5:30 pm**

Choral Evensong at Epiphany Parish 1805 38th Avenue Seattle, WA 98122.

**Sunday Nov. 21, 5 pm**

Prelude to Evensong. 30 minute organ recital by **Joseph Adam** on the Noack organ in the nave of Epiphany Parish 1805 38th Avenue Seattle, WA 98122

**Sunday Nov. 21, 5:30 pm**

Choral Evensong at Epiphany Parish 1805 38th Avenue Seattle, WA 98122. Reception follows.

**Friday Dec. 3, 12:05 pm**

Faculty organist Wyatt Smith plays a program of Christmas music by Buxtehude, Mendelssohn, Frahm, te Velde and others on the Fritts organ at Kilworth Chapel, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA. This concert is offered both in person and livestream at: <https://pugetsound.edu/academics/music/schneebeck-live>

**Sunday Dec. 12, 5:30 pm**

Advent Organ Vespers in the chapel of Epiphany Parish 1805 38th Avenue Seattle, WA 98122. Music of Walther, Krebs, Gerald Near and Samuel Scheidt. Reception follows.

# PAGES FROM THE PAST . . .

Excerpts from "The Console," September 1965

## Skating Rink Organ Removed By Puget Sound ATOE Members; Will Be Stored until Relocated Again

Federal Way, Wash. —Roller Gardens closed for the last time Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> [1965] and then the big removal started of some 800 pairs of rental skates, fountain equipment, office machines — everything but the 3/11 Wurlitzer. Owner Winn Hackmann had planned to sell the organ due to the cost of removal and storage until his rink organist for the past 10 years, Donald W. French, promised to recruit volunteers from Puget Sound Chapter ATOE — he is also a member — to remove the instrument at no expense to him.

As a result, according to French, the work was done as promised and another organ has been saved from being broken up or leaving the area altogether, and organist French may well have his job again of playing the same organ in another rink location. In the meantime he is continuing his teaching work.

With the help of Dick Schrum, Tom Hobbs, Rance Taylor, and Ron Knittler,

French started the removal on a Thursday morning at 10:30. That day they removed all pipes, conductors, trems, and anything that was not connected by air over the lobby. The 11 sets of pipes were laid out carefully around the edge of the skating rink floor, ready for wrapping and crating.

On Friday morning, French, Ron Knittler, Leo Bauscher and Rance Taylor returned to start the great de-soldering process. The console came first, as it appeared to be more involved. Located in an elevated room six steps high, it was across the floor from the pipe chamber. A special cable and junction board had been made to take care of the 100-foot distance between the chamber and key desk — the cable was extremely heavy. This was kept intact and connected to the console and will facilitate re-assembly later on. Next, the chests were disconnected from the relay and the second relay was divorced from the main one. The organ originally was a 2/8

installed in the United Artists Theatre, Portland, in 1928, and Sandy Balcim added a third manual, a second relay and switch stack, three sets of pipes (two Morton strings and an English horn) when it was moved.

That afternoon Ray Whelpley and Art Olsen arrived after work to help bring the heavy items down from the chamber. Hackmann had built a ramp so that everything slid down to the floor level of the building. He also hired two strong young men to move the entire lot. They had mainly to load and unload the truck. By 9:00 pm the next Thursday, the entire organ, including the blower and crated pipes, was stacked in the Hackmann garage.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The next home for this United Artists Theatre organ was the entrance to the electric motor shop (EMI) in Seattle, owned by Harold Musolf.

Today most of this organ has become part of Jerry Gould's Maple Valley organ.

# SEATTLE

## *Cradle of the American Theatre Pipe Organ*

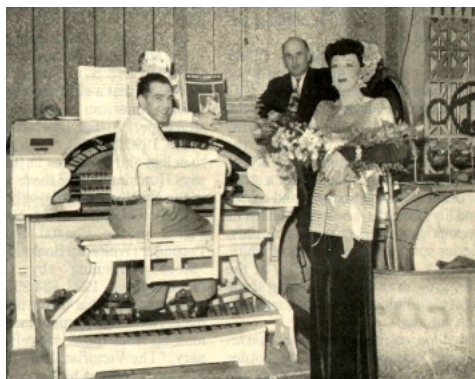
Written in 1965

Seattle, Washington, is acknowledged to be the "Cradle of the American Theatre Pipe Organ" by virtue of the fact that the first really successful Wurlitzer was installed in Seattle's Liberty Theatre in 1914. Chairman of the Board, Farny R. Wurlitzer, of the company bearing his name, told members of the American Theatre Organ Enthusiasts attending the 1964 national convention in Buffalo that organs had been built before the Liberty instrument was sold and installed, but this particular one was the start of the outstanding success the firm would experience in the coming golden years of the silent era. Because of this one organ, the one that did so much to establish the theatre pipe organ as the means of putting movie patrons "in the picture" making them live with the action, Seattle has become legendary. For the theatre organ buff, the City is the cradle of the theatre instrument. There were many birthplaces of theatre organs, and North Tonawanda is considered of prime importance because it was a Wurlitzer that was distinctively "first" to win the enthusiastic support

of the American public. This is evident yet today. [1965] Whenever reference is made to a theatre instrument, emphasis is most likely to be placed on "it's a Wurlitzer!" whether the organ happens to be one of this make or of some other manufacture.

In addition to being the "cradle," Seattle is also an outstanding city of theatres and theatre organs.

Interestingly enough, Seattle night clubs featured theatre pipe organs and several of them had Wurlitzers installed. At least three clubs



sported small organs. They were removed during depression days for various reasons and today not one is to be found in a night spot. It is rumored that one of the restaurant owners is considering an organ installation, but nothing definite has been reported at this time. [1965]

Within the coming years it is anticipated the larger theatres will be closed and razed. At least one large organ will remain for organ buffs and that one is the former Portland Liberty Theatre Wurlitzer installed in the old Granada Theatre. This is now the home of the Granada Organ Loft Club and silent films are presented with the organ for accompaniment. If properly patronized, there will remain at least one theatre organ in a theatre in Seattle. All cities should fare this well.

◀ Performers at the Garden of Allah, c.1948  
The Garden began as a prohibition speakeasy in the basement of the old Arlington Hotel. A 2/10 Wurlitzer was installed in 1939 by Balcom & Vaughan and was originally Opus #379, a Style 210 from Eugene Oregon's Rex Theatre.

# PAGES FROM THE PAST . . . *continued*

More excerpts from "The Console," September 1965 • To be continued next issue

## Harry L. Reed, Seattle Theatre Organist for More Than 40 Years

When Harry L. Reed recently pushed the general cancel button for the last time on the 3/14 Aeolian pipe organ in Rhodes Department Store and announced his retirement, a prime link with the famed silent film era was broken. It did not mean, however, that the link was lost, for organist Reed still refuses to become a senior citizen and sit on a sunny piazza in Seattle.

In the following account of his life in motion picture theatres when the screen was silent and depended on the wonders of Wurlitzers, Kimballs, Mortons and all the other makes of pipe organs to set the moods for the scenes, Harry Reed sets the stage for next issue's feature on Seattle theatre instruments and the lavish palaces they flooded with beautiful music. The text was taken from a letter written to Dick Schrum, a past president of Puget Sound Chapter ATOE, who, when compared to Reed's length of service in and around theatre pipe organs, is a relative newcomer. We shall learn more of this peppy pipe organ personality as he tells his story.

"In April, 1921, I was offered a position with the West Coast Chain in Seattle which boasted two of the largest four manual Wurlitzers in captivity — one at the Liberty Theatre, Portland, and the other at the Coliseum in Seattle. The offer was appreciated, but I replied that about July 1<sup>st</sup> I intended to purchase a new Ford and take a leisurely tour of about five weeks, which would include a ride over the Santa Fe Trail through New Mexico and Arizona to Los Angeles and then to Seattle. A Buick was sold and the Ford purchased. The Ford was preferred because in those days Ford parts were available in every city, town and village. My only difficulty was a blowout in Kingman, Arizona!

"I realized that my name had been mentioned in Seattle by Leon Greenman, former violinist and leader at Loew's St. James Theatre, who had gone to Seattle as a symphony "import" and was also concertmaster of the

Coliseum Theatre orchestra under Arthur Kay, originally known as Arthur Kautzenbach,



conductor of the Boston Pops before Arthur Fiedler. "Arriving on Sunday, I went with Greenman on Monday to give all particulars and then to the

orchestral manager who had written to me in April. He said, "Thank the Lord! I'm glad you arrived just in time. Go to work Saturday at the Strand Theatre. Fred Feringer is leaving to become organist at the First Church of Christ, Scientist!"

Fred and I became good friends and at the time the Rhodes Department Store organ was installed in December, 1927, it was my privilege to be his associate. I played during his vacations when he went hunting and fishing.

"The Strand organ was a three manual Skinner of good size, but in August, 1924, I was tempted to open the new Everett Theatre which had a modern two manual Kimball with piano, harp, chimes, xylophone and all the sound effect gadgets. I stayed for two happy years because it included my marriage in December, 1924, and my wife and I have just celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### Harry Reed and the Rhodes Department Store Aeolian



Rhodes Department Store was a popular downtown shopping destination. A 3/14 Aeolian was installed on the dining room level in December 1927. The lunch and dinner-time concerts were a big draw.

"About half of this organ is not usable. The display pipes alone blow the teacups off the balcony tables. The combination pistons cannot be used because they were set at the factory for the player unit, which has never been used, and are non-adjustable. One other note, according to Schrum, "The organ is not for sale at the present, nor are the rolls. There's a long line waiting for this one."

"I also introduced and demonstrated the Hammond for its first year in 1936 and also introduced the Baldwin at the Puyallup Fair in 1948, for the Eagles National Convention here the same year, and then for their conventions in Detroit, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Indianapolis, Chicago and Milwaukee. So I am almost like a conductor on a merry-go-round. I've really been around."



Rhodes Department Store in the 1950s