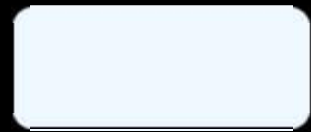




History of a Pipe Organ

Misc Skating > Imperial WurliTzer Story



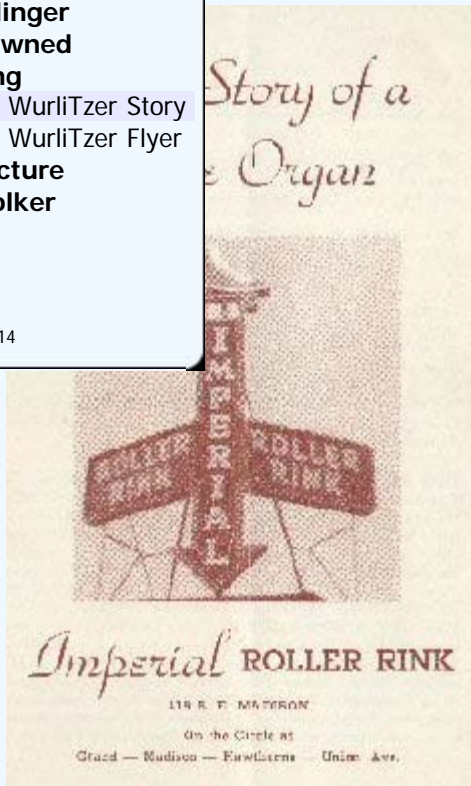
Imperial Skating Rink - Our WurliTzer

Robert Bollinger
Bollinger Owned
Misc Skating

Imperial WurliTzer Story
 Imperial WurliTzer Flyer

Coloring picture
Solitaire Polker
Poetry
References
Contact

..... 03.02.2014



This is a story of an Organ, an instrument known to all - Church folks, School folks, Concert lovers, and, yes, even the unknown who walk the streets. They, too, have stopped and listened.

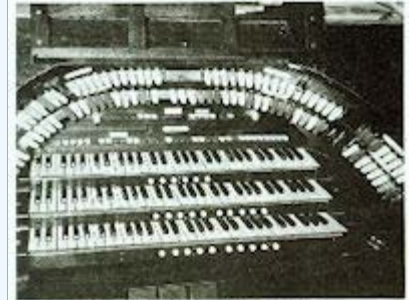
The organ of which we are speaking is the Woods Pipe Organ which had been in the loft of the Imperial almost thirty-years to the day its wind was shut off to make way for the WurliTzer.

Oh, No, we didn't throw Betsy away.

(Betsy is her name, you know). She has provided the sweetest of skating music to the myriads of skaters from all over the world for the thirty years we spoke of in the paragraph above. Her keys have been tenderly touched by such famous Roller Skating Organists as Buck Nye, Don French, Pete Krashaur, Betty Colburn, Jerry Gilmore, Cecil Teague, Len Hoyt, Dick Bowman and, of course, the Master of the Keyboard at the present time, Don Simmons.

About eighteen months ago, Roy Brown (Pop's son) heard about a WurliTzer Organ that was for sale. He got into a conversation with Pop and Mom and it was decided to buy this organ. It was resting in the loft of the Hollywood Theater, that's way up you know, in little rooms either side of the stage. How to get it down was the problem that faced Roy, but with a little paper work, a scaffold and some lumber, he and Jerry Gilmore, who was the Imperial Organist at the time, got busy, dismantled the organ and let it down the runways they built, to the stage

From The 1966 American Association of Theater Organ Enthusiasts handout



WURLITZER-WOOD 3/18

Installed in the Imperial Skating Rink, this organ is part WurliTzer and part William Wood. This stretch will play this instrument for the convention.

The Imperial Skating Rink, had a Wm Wood Organ that was later combined with the WurliTzer Style H Opus 1327 from the Hollywood Theater.

of the theatre and from there to the basement of Pop's home and Roy's home and the rest to the Rink. They began the great job of cleaning. Woodwork was washed sanded, refinished, waxed to the newness of a New Organ. New cables consisting of thousands of wire were woven, pneumatics relined and there are a couple of thousand of them, contact points on the switchboard cleaned and readied. Then the big job!

The biggest job was the decision to the question: "Shall the old organ be attached to the new or should we use the new alone?" You might guess that sentiments entered into this. Cecil Teague was called and he suggested that certain sets that produced the beautiful music the Imperial was noted for, should be left on the job.

I could sit at this machine and tell you of the many thousands of parts, the number of keyboards, its extreme size, etc., but I am not going to take your time, knowing that it's the music that people like, and this combined organ gives you just that, MUSIC THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO SKATE.

Before I close I must give great credit to those who assisted Roy in this undertaking: Jerry Gilmore, Jerry Fox, Lloyd and Lee who repaired the pneumatics, Jean Groger and the folks from Corvallis, Eugene, and Portland of whom I have no names, but possibly Roy will speak of them.

So please, after you have read this, skate to your heart's content, or sit and listen, as you wish. We hope you will enjoy the efforts of the management of the Imperial to bring you happiness through the medium of good music and a clean rink.

Pop (Brown)

What Makes The Organ "Tick"

Dad has covered the outline of the Imperial Organ, what has happened and all the information pertaining to its purchase, transfer, installation, etc. However, I would like to cover the vitals of this great instrument, in that I have had it all apart from blower to switchstack and had a chance to study it. This has been a pet hobby of mine, and I might add, quite a hobby, with plenty of work attached. Let's take a look at the PIPES as you know them. We know them as sets. At the present time there are 18 sets of pipes installed, more will be added as we find time. These sets consist of the following.

Flute	97 pipes	Tibia Clausa . . .	61 pipes
. . .			
Flute		Kinura	

49 pipes	61 pipes
...	.
Oboe 61 pipes	Kinura Loud . . . 49 pipes
..	.
Violin 73 pipes	Open Diapason 49 pipes
...	
Violin 61 pipes	Open Diapason 85 pipes
..	
Celeste 61 pipes	English Horn . . 49 pipes
.	.
Tuba 73 pipes	French Horn . . . 61 pipes
..	
Tuba 61 pipes	Clarinet 61 pipes
..	.
Tibia 73 pipes	Clarinet 49 pipes
..	.

There are Cathedral Chimes and Electronic Chimes with two Glockenspiels and two Zyllophones and the percussions,

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Orchestra Bells | Boat Whistle |
| Sleigh Bells | Auto Horn |
| Marimba | Bird Whistle |
| Harp | Horse Hoofs |
| Cryslogot | Castinets |
| Bass Drum | Tamborine |
| Snare Drum | Cymbal |
| Triangle | Crash Cymbal |
| Siren | Door Bell |
| Kettle Drum | Chinese Wood Block |
- and of course the Piano and the Mandolin which were spoken of before in this booklet

There are thousands of miles of cable which carry the energy to the various switchstacks and relays. These relays may be seen in the room by the piano. Strange as it may seem the electrical energy needed is no greater than the energy contained in a 12 volt auto battery, a constant supply being furnished through a rectifier. The wind pressure comes from a blower which produces wind to activate some 3,000 pneumatics throughout the entire organ.

We hope this will help you to some extent to enjoy the music better from having some understanding of how it is produced.

In closing I wish to thank the following men (hobbyists, the same as I) who have been so kind in assisting me in the problems that befell me. I am indeed indebted to Dick Chase of Corvallis, Oregon and Bob Rickett of Portland,

both of whom have WurliTzers in their homes, for their able assistance and cooperation.

Roy (Brown)

From "The Story of a Pipe Organ"
produced by the Brown Family
for the January 20, 1957 dedication
of the Imperial WurliTzer Organ
(no changes were made not even spelling).

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