

**PUGET SOUND
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY**

On the web at www.pstos.org

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 11 No. 8

August 2000

Summer Picnic and Inaugural Concert at Beaver Springs Lodge, Port Ludlow. . . Saturday, August 12th

- Two Organists
- Catered Picnic
- Deluxe Coach Transportation from Northgate and Tacoma
- A Great Time!

Featuring Organists
OWEN CANNON
CLINT MEADWAY
plus
Open Console



OWEN CANNON



CLINT MEADWAY

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR EVERYONE ATTENDING THIS EVENT...

Your tickets...

If you are a bus passenger, your picnic ticket and name tag will be given to you as you board the bus.

If you are driving yourself, your tickets together with detailed driving directions will be mailed to you to August 1st.

Where to board the buses...

The bus loading in Seattle will pickup near Northgate at the same lot used prior to the Anacortes trip last year. The lot is at the very southeast corner of the Northgate mall, at the corner of NE 103rd Street and 5th Ave. NE. **From Southbound I-5** take Exit 173, turn left under the freeway, then right onto 1st Ave. N.E. Turn left onto NE 103rd Street and just before reaching 5th Ave. NE, turn left into the parking lot. This is the old Malmo Nursery lot, for those who remember those days. It is below the grade of, and cannot be accessed from, the actual Northgate parking lot. **From Northbound I-5**, take the Northgate Exit and stay in the

right lane. Turn right onto 1st Ave. NE and follow directions where underlined above.

The bus loading in Tacoma will pick up at the Park & Ride lot on the north side of 6th Ave. directly across from the Tacoma (Swasey Branch) Library located at 7001 6th Ave.

From I-5 take Exit 132 (Highway 16/ Bremerton). Take the 6th Avenue exit off Hwy 16 and turn left at the light onto 6th Avenue. Drive west on 6th Ave. to the Park & Ride. From Gig Harbor, take the Jackson Ave. exit off Hwy 16, go right on Jackson. At the first stop light (Jackson & 6th) turn left, drive approx. two blocks to the Park & Ride on the left side of 6th.

Bus boarding times...

The Northgate bus will depart at **10:00 a.m.** The Tacoma Park & Ride bus will depart at **11:00 a.m.** Please arrive at least 20 minutes early. We want to get you to the

destination in time for your yummy catered picnic lunch!

RETURN TIMES: Tacoma folks can expect to return about 5:30; Seattle folks, about 6:30.

Drive directions and tickets for self-drivers...see "tickets" above

Is it too late to sign up?

Although the deadline for reservations has passed, a few bus seats are still available. For

information, please phone Norman Miller at the number below.

Ticket questions—Norman Miller, 206-784-7154

Other questions— Russ or Jo Ann Evans, 425-485-5465 (after Aug. 3)

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Editors

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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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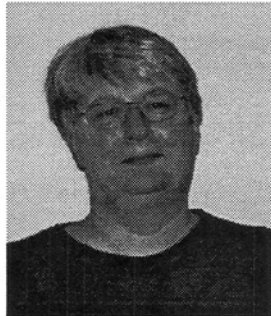
Listing of non-PSTOS events in the Pipeline

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



I hope everyone has signed up for our PSTOS Picnic at Beaver Springs Lodge near Port Ludlow. We have filled one bus and are filling a second.

This will be an exceptional event – and a brand new venue! See you there on Saturday, August 12th.

One Big Weekend - Opus VII, on September 23rd and 24th, is really shaping up. This, too, will be an exciting weekend. Check this *Pipeline* for all the info and sign up.

PSTOS business has really taken a back seat with me lately. I have been at home the last three weeks taking care of a new puppy. He is a three-month-old Scottish Terrier named 'Alec'. I am so proud of him I'd like to share a picture with you. He seems to like Hammond Organ music (at home) and has even heard the pipe organ at Haller Lake (but don't tell anyone). Thanks to Jack and Mary Lou Becvar—also Scottie owners—for their help in finding my 'wee Alec'.



See you at the Picnic!

— Barbara Graham

August Board Meeting
Monday, August 7th
Excalibur's Restaurant in
University Plaza Hotel,
1-5 and NE 45th St.
Dinner & meeting, 6:00

PSTOS Coming Events

Summer Picnic and an Inaugural Concert

Beaver Springs Lodge, Port Ludlow
Saturday, August 12th

One Big Weekend—Opus VII

CROC is busy with big plans to make this a grand event. Jelani Eddington will be the featured performer. Block out this weekend on your calendar now! In and around Portland. We'll do our best to arrange bus transportation.

Sat., Sun., September 23—24

Hokum Hall Special Event

Another fun event at this fascinating venue is being planned. Watch this space for further developments!

Sun., October 15

Chris Elliott at Johnson Mansion, Gig Harbor

Another great concert at "The Mansion!" Launch your holidays with this big Saturday afternoon event!

Note date change—Sat., Nov. 11

Annual PSTOS**Christmas Party**

Mark this date NOW...one of our big events of the year! Haller Lake C.C.

Sun., Dec. 3

OTHER Events of Interest

Dick Averre and**Vernon Greenstreet at****Bellingham's Mt. Baker Theatre**

Organ/piano duets and solos featuring the music of Porter, Gershwin, Carmichael, Grofe, with a bit of Bach and Debussy.

Sunday, Aug. 20th, 2:00 p.m.

Hokum Hall Silent Cinema**Comedy series, West Seattle**

...continued next page

From the Mailbox

Good news about Spokane's FOX Theatre

Tom Blackwell recently received this update on the current status of Spokane's FOX Theatre from PSTOS member Paul Arndt, who lives in the Spokane area. This is good news for those who feared the theatre would be demolished to create a parking lot!

For the complete story and numerous beautiful full color photos of the interior of this great old art deco building, go to the PSTOS website at <http://www.pstos.org/instruments/wa/spokane/fox.htm>

Tom,

Sorry it has been so long. Currently the Spokane Symphony has made a deal with Regal Cinemas to purchase the Spokane FOX Theatre. The negotiated price is about \$1.1 million. The Symphony has 90 days to evaluate the theatre, get estimates on refurbishing



cost, and to amass said \$1.1 million to make the purchase. The Symphony received a State Arts Grant for about \$250,000 just this last week to help with the purchase price. The Symphony is selling seats for \$500 each to help raise the additional \$900,000 for the purchase. Then they will have to raise money to refurbish the theatre and turn it into a symphony hall. San Jose, California is currently doing the same thing with their FOX Theatre to make it the home of the San Jose Opera. David

Packard, Jr., gave \$15 million to that project. He also owns the Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto.

I think there are enough wealthy people wanting to save the Spokane FOX that it will happen. Whether it will ever have a theatre organ again is another question. If they do a true restoration, that would include an organ! Maybe they can acquire the Silverwood 3/17 Wurlitzer which is quite close to the original FOX 3/13 in size.

—Paul Arndt

Don't overlook your PSTOS Website—it's an absolutely fascinating way to spend an evening!

Tom Blackwell is to be congratulated for creating one of the most comprehensive and well-organized Theatre Organ

sites on the web. You are urged to visit it frequently, since he's constantly busy updating the site, and expanding the wealth of information about northwest organs, theatres, and artists. On July 19th, there had been 11,575 visitors since June, 1998!

An interesting spot to check while there is the Guestbook. It's slightly challenging to find, but if you will click on the "What's New" button (bottom left), then scroll to the bottom of that

window and click on "Sign our Guestbook," it will open for you to sign if you wish, and to read. You'll find interesting messages there from all over the world. It makes for a fascinating half-hour! And do leave your remarks—Tom deserves much praise.

www.pstos.org
Bookmark it today for frequent future reference!

OTHER Events of Interest, continued...

Featuring live musical scores on the Wurlitzer. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 7:30. 7904 35th Ave. SW in West Seattle. Info: 206-937-3613 or www.hokumhall.org

Gertie The Dinosaur (1914), *Honeymooniacs* (1929), and *A Pair Of Tights* (1928).
August 1st and 2nd, 7:30 p.m.

The Lunch Hound (1927), *Love, Oil & Grease* (1914), *Mabel's Dramatic Career* (1913), *Lizzies of the Field* (1924), *Mickie's Nine* (1928).
August 8th and 9th, 7:30 p.m.

Modeling (1921), *Fast and Furious* (1924), *Kia Speed* (1924).

August 15th and 16th, 7:30 p.m.

Koko's Cartoon Factory (1925), *Teddy at the Throttle* (1917), *It's A Gift* (1923).

August 22nd and 23rd, 7:30 p.m.

Tom Hazleton at the Everett Theatre Wurlitzer

For info and tickets phone 425-258-6755 or www.eskimo.com/~someone/ets/events.html
Sat., Sept. 9th, 7:00 pm

For Sale Organ stuff

ESTEY REED ORGAN, c. 1910, two manuals, 30 note pedals, 10 sets of reeds, golden oak, new motor, excellent condition.

Vernon Greenstreet, 360-714-8235
[Bellingham] E-mail: vrgrst@home.com

PAGES FROM THE PAST...

William Wood hailed as "Master Mechanic of Movie Organs in Portland Theaters" — 1920

News as it appeared in an August 20, 1920, Portland newspaper.
From the William Bunch archives.

Regularly Ordained Minister Plies Trade of Making Effects for Resonant Boxes That He Has Tamed. Wizard Ready at All Times for "Organic" Difficulties.

Some folks call him William, some folks call him Bill, but his name is William Wood, and his official capacity is master mechanic of organs in all Jensen & Von Herberg houses in Portland, from the mammoth Wurlitzer at the Liberty to the Kimball at the Star.

With a genial smile on his face and a helping hand to all employees of Jensen & Von Herberg who need it, Billy goes on his way through life well liked and a master in his line of endeavor.

Theatre patrons who sit in the Liberty Theatre on Sunday during a concert and listen to the perfectly true and harmonious notes filling the house do not know that up in the organ chambers sits Billy Wood with his tools and a flashlight ready in case of trouble to fix anything in the whole organ that could possibly go wrong.

Besides tuning, repairing, installing and playing all the organs, Billy has had an eventful career that very few people are aware of.

Billy first gained fame in the world about 32 years ago over a little piano store on Gerard Avenue, in Philadelphia, when he was born. His father was a master organ builder and maintained two piano and organ stores in Philadelphia.

When Billy reached the age of 5 years his name was changed to Master William, and with his brother, Master Darwin Wood, he started on a tour of the world with his father. The object was to give concerts with Master Darwin accompanying Master William's rich baritone voice. Master Darwin Wood at this time had gained the sobriquet of the Little Mozart of America.

During their tour of the world the young pair appeared before Queen Victoria of England, giving a recital at the Crystal Palace in London. And later, on their return to the United States, they appeared



WILLIAM WOOD, who plays nursemaid to five motion picture houses in Portland [August 20, 1920]

before John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie, playing one of blind Tom's famous concerts.

One of the feature exhibitions of the Toronto exposition in 1897 was the appearance of Masters William and Darwin Wood in a joint recital.

At the age of 19 years, Master William decided to strike out for himself and left his father and brother, going to Vancouver, B.C., and shipped on a river steamer as a bellboy. A year later he was promoted to steward of the ship.

About this time the moving picture started to be noticed by the public, and before long the singing of illustrated songs in the motion picture houses was considered an important feature of the show. Toward this new business, Master William—now Mr. Wood—wended his way

and he started singing illustrated songs in a little theatre on Cordova Street in Vancouver, B.C.

During his stay here he acted as doorboy, janitor, operator and songster as well.

During the next 12 years Billy taught himself how to play the piano, organ, drums and xylophone and worked in theatres all over the coast in all the principal cities at one or the other of these accomplishments. And in his spare moments he was learning the mechanical end of the piano and organ with the object in view of some day being a master mechanic of organs.

Then he went into business for himself, buying a theatre in Roseburg, Oregon. Darwin went with him and played the piano while Billy played the xylophones and drums and managed the house. They hired an operator and ticket seller.

Billy at this time had acquired sufficient ability in the organ mechanic business to begin manufacturing effects for organs, such as whistles, bells, guns, and so forth, that connected with all up-to-date organs.

After experiences in Hood River, Marshfield and other Oregon towns as a musician, Billy took up his chosen line exclusively and went to work for Jensen & Von Herberg.

To sum it all up, Bill has crossed the deep three times, made one trip to China, crossed the North American continent 12 times, and is well known in every principal city on the Pacific coast.

In his chosen line of work, Wood has the advantage of some other men of similar occupations because of his ability to make himself any piece of mechanism connected with an organ.

And oh, yes; Billy is also a regularly ordained minister, but, as he says, "I never worked at it." [Continued on page 6...]

ONE BIG WEEKEND • OPUS VII

Fri., Sat., Sun., Sep. 22-23-24

Details and Schedule—

Fix a brown bag lunch and board the special PSTOS tour bus in the Fife/Tacoma area (exact location in next Pipeline) Friday at 10:00 a.m. Only those on the PSTOS bus will be treated to the special One Big Weekend Pre-Glow activities planned especially for you!

Roy Williams, our famous tour bus driver, will take us on a sight-seeing trip up the Columbia River Gorge to view one of the most spectacular falls in the country—the 630-foot high Multnomah Falls. Visited by presidents, by royalty, and by thousands of tourists each year, these falls defy description.

After touring the grounds, taking your photos and stretching your legs, you will be taken to the Rheinlander German restaurant for a no-host authentic German feast. All the waiters and waitresses are professional singers who must audition before being hired! They will treat you to a great show, and the food is fabulous.

You will then be taken to the motel for check-in, after which the bus will take you to the first official One Big Weekend event, an evening of Open Console and performances on the 3/24 Kimball Theatre Pipe Organ at Cleveland High School. This event is hosted by the Oregon Chapter of ATOS.

Saturday morning at 10:00, board the bus to be taken to the Oaks Amusement Park to enjoy a program by Keith Fortune and Gary Russell.

Lunch will be on your own, and at 2:00, the bus will again be off for the John and Mary Jo Olsen residence and a “teaser” concert by Jelani Eddington on their beautiful Wurlitzer.

After arriving back at the motel, and enjoying a group dinner get-together in the banquet room at Izzy’s, join all the OBW folks for a party in the Conference Room at the motel



Featuring
Jelani Eddington

from 7:30 until 9:30–10 pm. A Steinway grand and electronic organ will be set up for a jam session with everyone and anyone participating. Take your music and join the fun!

On Sunday morning, board the bus for the Hollywood Theatre and a concert by Donna Parker. Then return to the motel and shopping area surrounding it for lunch, checkout, and some time on your own. At 1:30, the bus will load to take you to Salem and the beautiful Elsinore Theatre where you’ll enjoy the grand finale event of this special weekend—the outstanding Jelani Eddington in concert. This event will be open to the public, and will be an unforgettable one!

Our special PSTOS bus will depart Salem at 4:00 for the return trip to Tacoma.

This will be a great three days, filled with a variety of events, activities and music—a great way to end the summer season!

Registration for all Concerts, Open Console, and Party is just \$30!

Hosted by Columbia River Organ Club • Jointly sponsored by PSTOS and CROC

Important checklist for those attending One Big Weekend, Opus VII...

1. Mail your Registration Form on Page 6 to CROC. Include your check

2. Make your own reservations at the motel. The official motel is the Comfort Inn in Wilsonville, just a few miles south of downtown Portland on I-5. Located in Wilsonville Towne Center near many restaurants and entertainment. In-room coffee, refrigerators, microwaves and hair dryers. Free continental breakfast and fresh-baked cookies every evening. 24-hour pool & spa. Rates: \$60 for 1 bed; \$70 for 2 beds. **Phone 503-682-9000.** Refer to Columbia River Organ Club when

making your reservations. These rates are good Friday, 9/22 through Sunday, 9/24.

3. Reserve your seat(s) on the tour bus. Full transportation to and from Opus VII, including to all Fri.day, Saturday and Sunday events. Pickup will be in the Fife area where overnight parking has been arranged—details to be published in Sept. Pipeline. Total bus fare is \$68 per person all inclusive. Make your check payable to PSTOS, and mail to **Barbara Graham, 2823 NE 105th, Seattle WA 98125-7722.** Deadline for bus reservations is September 11th.

Pages From The Past

Continued from page 4

William D. Wood (1888—1945)

Built twenty-three theatre organs, most of them between the years 1925 to 1929. Three were for California theatres, one went to Idaho, three to Washington, and sixteen were delivered in Oregon. All but four of the Oregon organs were installed in Portland.

A typical Wm. Wood theatre organ consisted of 8 ranks: Tuba, Tibia, Vox Humana, Flute, Diapason, Viole d'Orchestra, Viole Celeste, and Clarinet.

A Wm. Wood organ used excellent pipework but the organ overall was frequently found wanting in specifications and mechanical details.

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Russ & Jo Ann Evans, Newsletter Editors
6521 N.E. 191st
Kenmore, WA 98028-3453

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org
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ONE BIG WEEKEND • OPUS VII

Portland and Salem, Oregon
September 23—24

REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT

Date _____

Member Name _____

Address _____

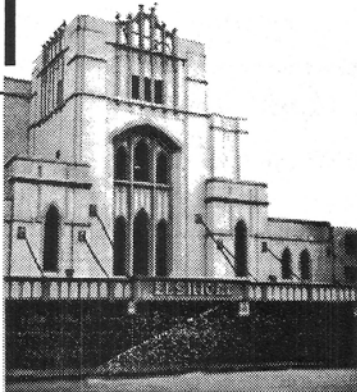
City/State/ZIP _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

Please list names of all persons in your party as you wish them to appear on your One Big Weekend name badges:

Event	Persons Attending	Cost per Person	Total
Full Weekend Event Package, Sep 23/24	_____	\$30	\$ _____
CROC busing to all events (only for those NOT using the PSTOS bus)	_____	\$25	\$ _____
GRAND TOTAL			\$ _____



Salem's beautiful Elsinore Theatre

Please make your check payable to:
Columbia River Organ Club (or simply CROC)
Send your completed Registration Form and payment to:
OBW Opus VII
Shirley Clausen, Registrar
619 NE 190th Ave.
Portland, OR 97230-7501

For more information about **One Big Weekend – Opus VII**, phone (503) 665-6633

For information about the **special PSTOS bus**, phone Jo Ann Evans, 425-485-5465, or Barbara Graham, 206-525-7859