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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 15 No. 1

January 2004

Forty members respond as Paramount Theatre says "Yes" to a PSTOS Open Console on January 3rd

It was a special day for PSTOS! After a nine-year hiatus, we were welcomed by Paramount Theatre management to have an Open Console session for members!

About 40 members indicated a desire to be there, 20 of whom asked to be put on the list to play. Because of the weather, not everyone came, but those who did had a great day. The organ sounded terrific after all the work put in by the PSTOS "Publix Team" including a full day of tuning by Clint Meadway and Bob Zat with help from Tom Blackwell and Russ Evans.

Players included Don Wallin, Bill Keller, Roger McNair, Bob McCutchin,

Diane Whipple, Clyde Hunnicutt (who did some wonderful things he brought to us from his professional experiences in Phoenix), Clint Meadway, Bob Zat, Ron Hemmi, Vince Fryer, Jo Ann Evans, and others.

Due to the short notice, there was not time to publish the news in *The Pipeline*. Tom Blackwell, our PSTOS webmaster and organizer of this event, notified via email every member whose

email address we have—about half the members.

Tom has now set up a system of email alerts to advise members of any upcoming events that might miss publication due to lack of advance notice. *To be sure to receive these advisories, send your email address to Tom at*

member-alerts@pstos.org

Your address will not be shared. And we hope to see you next time!



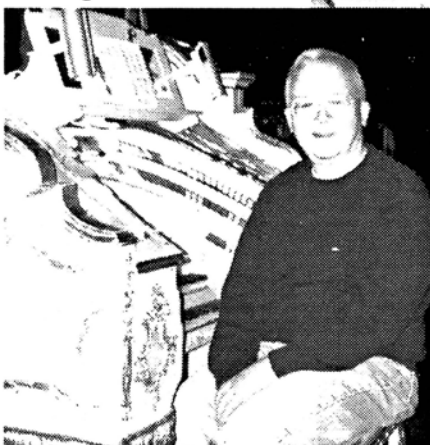
Above—Russ Evans, Tom Blackwell, and Bob Zat put safeguards in place to help route members safely across the stage from the stage door entrance and down the steps to the auditorium.

Right—Bob Zat shows off the organ tower in the lower level of the theatre. It's been working since 1928!



Left—Bill Keller takes his turn at the Wurlitzer as Diane Whipple looks on.

Below—Roger McNair made the 4/20 Wurlitzer sound great.



Above—It was a treat hearing Clyde Hunnicutt, who recently moved here from Phoenix.

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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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Toll-free 1-877-843-0953

Past Pres.—Barbara Graham, 206-525-7859

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Dan Warner, 206-632-3723

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Pipeline Editors—Russ & JoAnn Evans
425-485-5465

Pipeline Online Website—Tom Blackwell
206-784-9203

Committee Liaison—Marilyn Schrum

Membership—Doug Owen, 253-566-6734

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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.

Joining Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is quick and easy! For a one year membership, send a \$15 check payable to PSTOS together with your name(s) as you would like them to appear on your name badges, your address with complete 7-digit ZIP code, and your email address (optional) to:

**Norman Miller, Treasurer, 2644 NW Esplanade,
Seattle, WA 98117-2527.**

PRESIDENT'S Message

Another new year so soon? Yep, and there are new board members and some new assignments. See the Pipeline mast-head and get up to date on the changes.

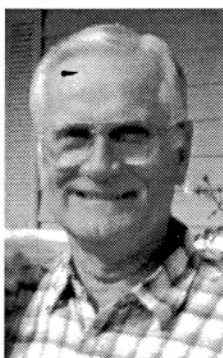
Webmaster Tom Blackwell has added an email alert system

to notify you of events that come up between issues of the Pipeline. The first one notified members of the open console at the Paramount on January 3. If you missed it, get your email address to our webmaster ASAP so you don't miss again. Tom was able to arrange an open console for Saturday afternoon on very short notice. Forty members responded with 20 asking for console time!

Our annual Christmas Party and business meeting at Haller Lake was a lot of fun. Ellen Sullivan and her son, James, decked the hall with much that was jolly, Marilyn Schrum and Barbara Graham handled refreshments and the drawings, Russ Evans got the console and sound system ready, and Jo Ann Evans helped everybody with everything. Thanks also to Norman Miller and Diane Whipple for handing out tickets and selling souvenir coffee mugs. There were door prizes for just about everyone.

Bob Zat and Russ Evans spent a couple of days before the party working on the solo expression shutters. The result is a much more gradual increase in volume from the Tibia side of the organ. Great job, fellows. Halie Dodrill and yours truly played Christmas carols and for the sing-a-long. Thanks to Bill Keller and Jo Ann Evans for the cameo spots. Wally Stevenson gave us a program of oldies and goodies. What a delight to hear some really great songs of yesteryear! And, he pulled the program off with a broken left foot in a cast. Thanks, Wally. You are a real trooper.

2004 will bring us lots more good music and good fellowship. Come join the fun.



PSTOS Coming Events

Leap Day Special Event

Enjoy a special **Sorry, Canceled** Day
Details yet to come!
Sunday, February 29, 2004

Home Party

Another fun home event. Details coming in February.

Sunday, March 28, 2004

Tony Fenelon Program!

Another wonderful afternoon of theatre organ pops at Gig Harbor! Aren't we fortunate to have this outstanding performer return! Tony is looking forward to once again seeing all his good friends in PSTOS. This will be a bangup event. Tickets available in March.

Sunday, May 16, 2004

Dave Wickerham Program!

We're excited to announce Dave has been booked for a terrific organ pops program at Gig Harbor next September. A midwest U.S. organist, Dave has just completed a tour of Australia and N.Z. to rave reviews.

Sunday, Sept. 12, 2004

February 29th Leap Day event canceled ... Paramount Theatre presents D.W. Griffith's "Birth Of A Nation" on that date

Our PSTOS Program Committee is sorry to announce the cancelation of the Leap Day event on February 29th.

However, there is good news—on that date the Paramount Theatre will screen the 1915 D.W. Griffith classic silent movie, *Birth of a Nation*, with Wurlitzer accompaniment by Dennis James.

We hope many PSTOS members will support this unusual event! More information will appear in the *Other Northwest Theatre Organ Events* column in the February Pipeline.

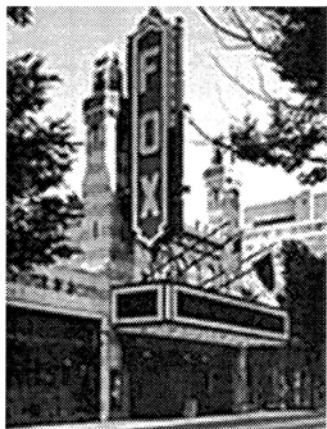
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Atlanta Chapter ATOS**

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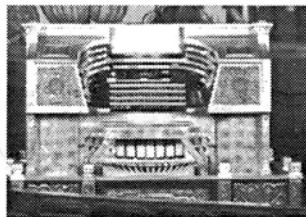
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For all the details, type this address into your web browser window:

www.theatreorgans.com/georgia/atlanta/atos/promo_weekend/promotion_weekend.htm

Be sure to check out the "Registration" section to download the printable form.

A note from PSTOS member Doug Owen—Just for your information, if you plan to attend this event, the Days Inn on Peachtree St., across the street from the Fox has rooms available for \$65 per day plus tax vs. the host hotel (also across the street from the Fox) which is over \$100!

Other Northwest Theatre Organ Events

D. W. Griffith's 1915 silent movie, "Birth of a Nation"

This classic epic movie will be shown by the Paramount Theatre in celebration of Black History Month. Wurlitzer accompaniment by house organist, Dennis James.

Sunday, February 29th. Time TBA—check February Pipeline.

HOKUM HALL HAPPENINGS

Those Were the Days!

Celebrate the traditions of early twentieth century Vaudeville—Comedy, Juggling, Magic, Music and Silent Films. Join Wurlitzer virtuosos Andy Crow and Bob White, host Lou Magor, and special guest Jim Cook. It's the Hokum Hall cure for the rainy night blues!

Fridays and Saturdays at 8 all during January.

For details, visit www.hokumhall.org, or phone 206-937-3613.

**ATOS Scholarships to
be awarded to young
organ students**

Young organists age 13 through 22 (as of July 1, 2004) are eligible to apply for one of eleven \$500 scholarships to be applied toward organ study.

There are two categories, A) Organ students studying with professional theatre organ teachers; and B) Theatre organ students furthering their musical education by working toward a college organ performance degree.

There is one \$500 scholarship available in Category A, and ten in Category B.

If you know about a young organist who might benefit from this financial help, please put PSTOS in touch with him/her.

More information and application forms are available by contacting President Clint Meadway by email at cbmeadway@wwdb.org or by phone toll-free 1-877-843-0953.

Closing Chord

Iris McLaughlin

We are sorry to learn of the death of Iris McLaughlin, who was in her mid-90s. She was a staunch supporter of all things theatre organ, and attended everything she could possibly manage.

Her dedication was demonstrated when a few years ago we planned a weekend trip to Spokane and Coeur d'Alene, including an afternoon at Silverwood Theme Park where we heard a wonderful concert by Jonas Nordwall on the former Bellevue Pizza & Pipes organ.

Rather than taking the chartered bus, Iris decided to take some friends in her own car, which broke down on the way. She did her best to get it repaired along the way and eventually did make it to the designated motel in Spokane, but too late to attend the events.

PSTOS sends sincere sympathy to the friends and family of Iris.

Pages From The Past..

Seattle's Winter Garden Theatre opened in 1920. Closed as a theatre in 1979, the building still stands today and houses a retail chain.

Many thanks to Paul Dorpat for permission to reprint excerpts from his *Seattle Times* "Now & Then" article of July 13, 2003.

In the summer of 1920 one of the last remaining pioneer homes on Third Avenue was razed for construction of the Winter Garden. This mid-sized theatre of 749 cushioned seats was designed exclusively for movies, not vaudeville.

The proprietor of Seattle's Winter Garden, James Q. Clemmer, was the city's first big purveyor of motion pictures. He got his start in 1907 with the Dream Theatre where he mixed one-reelers with stage acts. Eventually, he either owned or managed many if not most of the big downtown motion picture theatres.

The Winter Garden stayed open at 1515 Third Ave. until 1979. In the end it was known simply as The Garden, a home for X-rated films where the house lights were never turned up. Here it is in 1932 showing a remake of a 1919 silent film, "The Miracle Man."

In the late 1950s, when television cut into theatre attendance, many of the downtown theatres, The Garden included, played B-movies in double and triple features.

The theatre closed in 1979 and today houses a retail business.

The Winter Garden Wurlitzer—The theatre originally had a 2-manual 10-rank Style 210 Wurlitzer (opus 360) installed in 1920. The theatre opened as the Progressive and was later renamed to Winter Garden. The exact dates these names were used is unknown, but the theatre operated as the Winter Garden for most of the years it was open.

Records show that Jack O'Dale was an organist at the Progressive in 1927. Well known Northwest organist Ed Zollman played the Winter Garden for a few years.

In 1939, the organ was moved to Ridge Rink. It was lost in a fire at the rink in 1945.



The Winter Garden Theatre, c. 1932, located at 1515 Third Avenue. Being shown was "The Miracle Man," a 1919 silent film, enjoying a rerun.

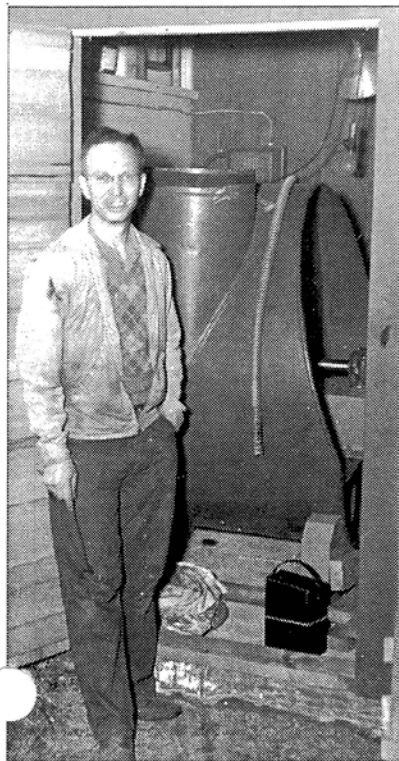


The Winter Garden building as it appeared in 2001. Since closing as a theatre in 1979, it has housed a Lerner's store, and is presently occupied by Aaron Brothers, an art supply chain.

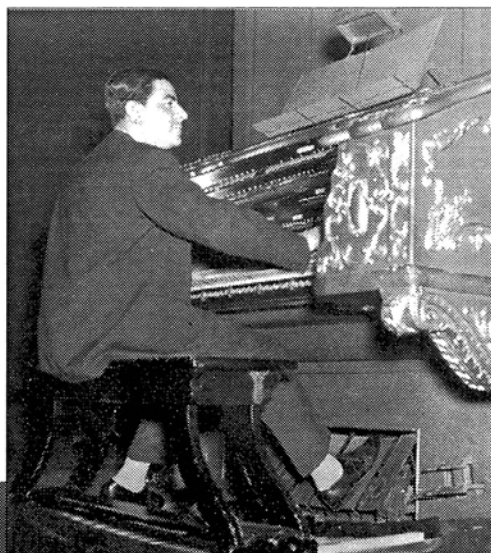
For more information about the Winter Garden Theatre, and to see additional pictures, go to <http://www.pstos.org/instruments/wa/seattle/wintergarden.htm>

Pages From The Past...continued

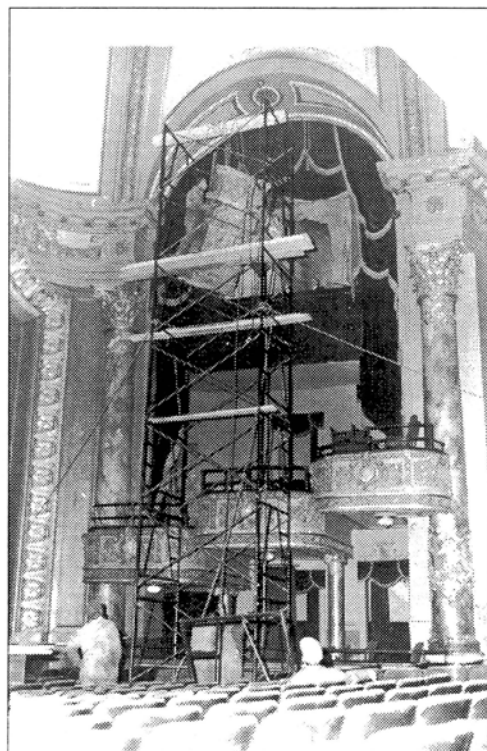
From the archives...a collage of historic theatre organ pictures, some believable... and some... well... YOU decide!



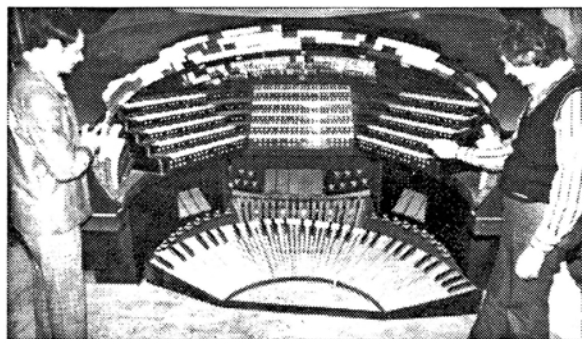
PSTOS member Bob Jones shown in front of his Edmonds home organ blower room in the 1950s. Bob is a Charter Member of both American Theatre Organ Enthusiasts (now ATOS) and of Puget Sound Chapter of ATOE (now PSTOS). Bob lives in Edmonds, still enjoys reading all the Pipeline news, but rarely attends events. He still plays for his church.



Pierre Cochereau from Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris (top) and Virgil Fox from N.Y.'s Riverside Church (bottom) both enjoying the Wurlitzer at the New York Paramount...two world famous classical organists having a great time! Looking on is Ray Bohr, second in command at that instrument in the 1950s.



Loew's Theatre, Toronto. The Solo manual chest is being precariously lowered. That's a man leaning against the chest on the top rung of the scaffolding! It is assumed it came down safely.



And in the "Believe It Or Not" category, these strange creations actually existed at one point. Left are two pictures of a rudimentary 10-manual console assembled by optimistic folks. Right is another equally unusual and challenging-to-play console. We think one of the men is Dick Simonton. If anyone can shed more light on these two bizarre "creations," please contact your editors at rj.evans@verizon.net

A great time was had by all at the annual PSTOS Holiday Party at Haller Lake Community Club

Members arrived bearing food. LOTS of food!

And there was music. LOTS of music!

The PSTOS Program Committee tried something new at this event. As folks assembled, and during the food service, background music was provided by several members—Bill Keller, Jo Ann Evans, and some lovely piano and organ duos by Clint Meadway at the organ with Halie Dodrill at the piano. After folks finished their food, the lights were dimmed and Wally Stevenson was introduced as concert artist for the day. He had recently injured his left foot, but trouper that he is, hobbled up to the organ and played a delightful program of favorites in many different styles. The fact that nearly everyone refrained from visiting and otherwise making noise during Wally's concert was appreciated by all!

Ellen Sullivan did her usual outstanding decorating job, making the room festive, warm and inviting. Many thanks to Ellen, who has shared her decorating expertise AND her personal "warehouse of decorations" with PSTOS for many years.

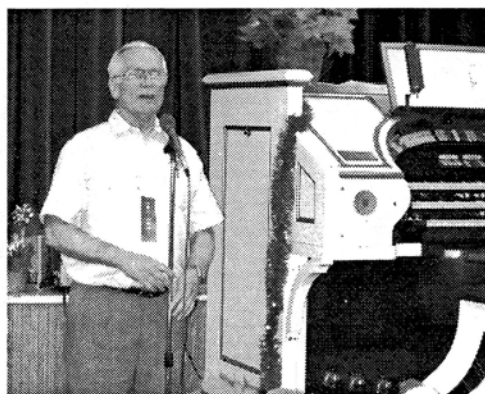
PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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At the end of the day, a number of folks pitched in to help put away chairs, tables, and with general cleanup, all much appreciated by the Board!

Many thanks to everyone for attending and for helping. We wish for all a wonderful 2004 with lots of great PSTOS activities to enjoy!



TOP—President Clint Meadway did a great job as Master of Ceremonies.

CENTER—Members listen to details of the Annual Membership Meeting before the festivities begin.

LEFT—A brief annual Membership Meeting took place prior to the beginning of party festivities. Officers and Board Members for 2004 were installed. Pictured are, back left, Barbara Graham, Immediate Past President; Dan Warner and Bill Keller, two-year Board Members; Clint Meadway, President; Tom Blackwell, Vice President. Front left—Norman Miller, Treasurer; Jackie Cedarholm and Diane Whipple, one-year Board Members. Missing from photo: Bob Zat, Secretary.