



PUGET SOUND
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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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.7

July 2004

Important—This event has been RESCHEDULED in August

Due to technical problems with the control system of the Wurlitzer in Olympia, and to provide additional time for its repair, our Celebrate Summer event has been rescheduled on August 14.

*If you have ordered tickets for this event but **CANNOT** attend in August, please advise Marilyn Schrum and she will return your check. If she has NOT heard from you by July 15th, she will put your tickets and drive directions in the mail.*

To contact Marilyn Schrum:

Email –

marilynschrum@hotmail.com

Phone –

206-364-5542

Mail –

12026 12th Ave. N.W.

Seattle, WA 98981 77-4621

Celebrate Summer!

Big PSTOS

DOUBLE

FEATURE

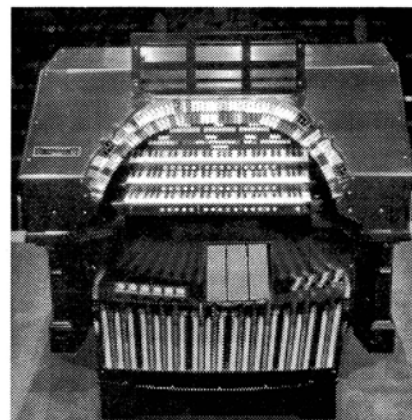
Event!

1

RARE OPPORTUNITY!

See, hear and play the
terrific Wurlitzer at Olympia's
WASHINGTON CENTER

- Hear ANDY CROW
in a mini-program!
 - Take a turn during Open Console!
- 10:30AM – 12:30PM



2

Then drive the short distance to Yelm and
ST. COLUMBAN CHURCH

where you'll be served the Church Ladies'
FAMOUS BUFFET LUNCH at 1:00PM.

- Hear and play Father Terence's outstanding Robert Morton
- ANDY CROW will again entertain!
 - Enjoy another Open Console!

• Two venues • Two mini-programs • A great lunch! • All for just \$12!

Saturday, August 14th

Reservations are a MUST!

Please use the enclosed order form and get your tickets now!

IMPORTANT NOTICE—A wrong address was printed on the Ticket Order Form included with last month's Pipeline. The correct house address is 12026. If you have not already ordered your tickets, please use the form found in this Pipeline. Thanks!
And sorry for the confusion!

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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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A.G.O., Pipe Org. Foundation Liaison—Carl Dodrill

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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.

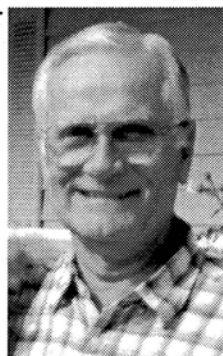
Advertising in the Pipeline

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

Do you remember the first time you heard a pipe organ? I certainly do. It marked me for life! Even more memorable is the first time you actually get to play one. Folks helping with the Pipe Organ Encounters sponsored by the American Guild of Organists report seeing the kids "come alive" the first time they get to play the pipe organ.



It seems to make sense to have instruments available for students to play. We are fortunate to have a Kimball theatre pipe organ at Franklin High School and a Moller concert organ at Roosevelt High School (see the update on these elsewhere in this issue). The challenge comes in making these instruments accessible to the students. Your board struggles with how to deal with the individuals and bureaucracies involved. We find that a great deal of effort results in very little progress. But we are determined to continue the effort.

The Pipe Organ Foundation, under the direction of Carl Dodrill, has made a real impact on the situation at Roosevelt. His board's goal was to have the organ installed in the new theatre. In spite of a great deal of apathy from the bureaucracy, this goal was realized. Financial obstructions have now been thrown in the path, but with the help of alumni and your contributions, this challenge can be overcome.

Both the POF and PSTOS boards' goal is to have both high school pipe organs playing in first class order, accessible to the students for practice and instruction, and teachers serving both student bodies. If you have any connections with teachers or administrators at either school or with school board members, please get in touch with Carl Dodrill or Clint Meadway so we can work together to bring this area of music education back to our schools.

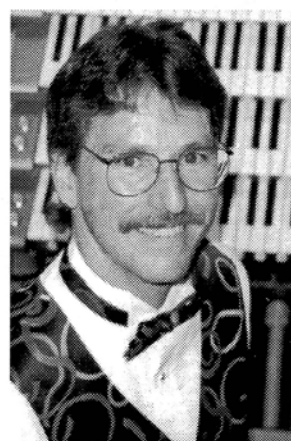
PSTOS Coming Events

Midsummer Double Feature!

Andy Crow is spearheading a great day in Olympia and Yelm. Arrive at Olympia's Wash. Center at 10:30 a.m. Hear Andy put the Wurlitzer through its paces, then give it a try yourself! Then at 12:30 it's on to Yelm to hear and play Father Terence's organ at St. Columban Church. When the famous dinner bell rings, enjoy the wonderful buffet lunch put on by the ladies of the church. A fun day for sure!

Rescheduled! Saturday, August 14.

Dave Wickerham Program!



We're excited to announce Dave is booked for a terrific organ pops program at Gig Harbor's Wurlitzer Manor. A midwest U.S. organist, Dave has just completed a tour of

Australia and N.Z. to rave reviews.

Sunday, Sept. 12, 2004

Pipe Organ Factory Tour

Visit two local pipe organ shops and observe first hand what goes into creating a truly classic pipe organ! A fun day, visiting Pasi Organ Builders in Roy for a 2-hour tour, a lunch stop, and an afternoon visit to Paul Fritts & Co., in Tacoma.

Saturday, October 9, begins at 10AM

Fall Festival

A big Autumn event at Haller Lake Community Club in North Seattle with the Chapter pipe organ. Theme ideas from the membership are welcome! In the past we've done Halloween, Oktoberfest, Fall Festival, White Elephant Auction, and others. Let us hear from you! Contact any Board Member listed in column 1 on this page.

Sun., Oct. 24

Holiday Party/Annual Meeting

Haller Lake Community Club, No. Seattle
Sun., Dec. 5

From The MAILBOX

Canadian member Norm Schmidt reviews an enjoyable program at the Mt. Baker Theater in Bellingham...

It was with great pleasure that I rejoined my friends of the Mount Baker T.O. Society yesterday in Bellingham, after unfortunately allowing my membership to drop a few years ago.

It was a two-part concert, with the opening performed by Vernon Greenstreet on the 2/10 Wurlitzer. This instrument has been played daily since 1927 when it was installed! Vernon admitted to me he is actually a classical rather than a theatre organist. Still, he opened with a medley from "Oklahoma", followed by two melodic songs from the 40s, "Laura" and "Louise."

Explaining to the audience there is little written music for the theatre organ with organists usually transcribing music from other instruments, he played a little-known Vienna waltz and finished with the well-known incendiary "Ritual Fire Dance"...and he pulled a lot of fire from this old chestnut.

Bach's "Tocatta in D Minor" which this writer had never heard played live, audibly demonstrated the dynamic range of the theatre organ...in fact, my Sony Walkman, was totally overwhelmed! Hearing it live in a large room, played on a theatre organ was nothing less than an emotional experience.

The second portion of the program was totally unexpected...the Bellingham Youth Jazz Band came on stage with some 22 musicians. These were kids (...no, they were great musicians) from Grade 6 to 9 under the direction of their mentor, Mark Kelly. This group has existed for a mere seven years, but with just a bit of final polishing...they are of a professional class!

I look forward to hearing more of their music, which consisted of jazz standards, and we all enjoy music we recognize and can hum. The audience thoroughly appreciated hearing jazz music from the 40s through to the 60s.

A most impressive and enjoyable afternoon at the Mount Baker Theatre!

The city center block where the theatre exists is undergoing a major upgrading, and on my way home to Canada, I picked up the "Whatcom County News" and learned the Mount Baker Theatre block is destined for phases two and three of a long-range upgrade during which the theatre itself will be closed for the renovation.

It is pleasing to see that this city treasure is being preserved and will continue to bring pleasure and entertainment to the people it serves.

Richard Warburton sends memories as told to him by Clarke Rush...

One time at the Coliseum Theatre, Sandy Balcom and Clark were repairing something in the Echo organ chamber. In the process of the repair, with the blower running, Sandy broke off the rod on the small Cone valve. The reservoir began to rise, as did Sandy who was seated on it attempting to hold it down. There was no one in the house who they could call, so Sandy elected to stand on the reservoir while Clarke left to shut the monster off. Unfortunately, Sandy was not heavy enough, so he braced his hands against the ceiling to try to stop the forthcoming disaster. Clarke was not a fast mover, even in his younger years, and about the time he reached the console there was a great "Whoosh" sound, much like the surf effect on the Wurlitzers. Clarke knew the Echo organ had no need for a Surf effect and this was clearly confirmed by a great barrage of language not printable. Clarke added that getting the reservoir down from the chamber was

very difficult as Sandy always said the organ was put in and the theatre built around it.

At one point during the heyday of theatre organs, there was a contract battle between the theatre operators and the musician's union. This advanced to a lockout of the organists. Some of the bigger houses hired replacements to keep the lights on, one of which was the Coliseum Theatre. This enraged the local organists and two of them dressed differently than usual, bought tickets to the performance, then sneaked into the blower room where they emptied four sacks of saw dust they were concealing under their coats into the intake side of the blower. They then beat a fast retreat out of the building to what Clarke called the march of a hundred ciphers. They were months getting all the sawdust out of the organ and eventually put cheese cloth filters between the air lines and chests.

Seattle's Franklin High School Kimball pipe organ is a 'best kept secret' at the school...

Buried treasure would best describe the Kimball Theatre Organ in Franklin High School's auditorium. The nine rank organ sounds wonderful, the auditorium is spacious and comfortable. But, the church organ style console has no pizzazz! Adding to this problem, the console is in the wings and must be moved, uncovered and have cables connected before it can be played.

We have a very handsome Robert Morton theatre organ console ready to replace the church organ console. We have the school district's blessings to go ahead. The plan is to get this done during the time that Roosevelt High is being remodeled, then launch a new music education program using both schools. There is a lot of work to do to get the console ready, and we have volunteers ready to roll. As soon as our work on our Haller Lake Wurlitzer is completed, we will get things going at Franklin.

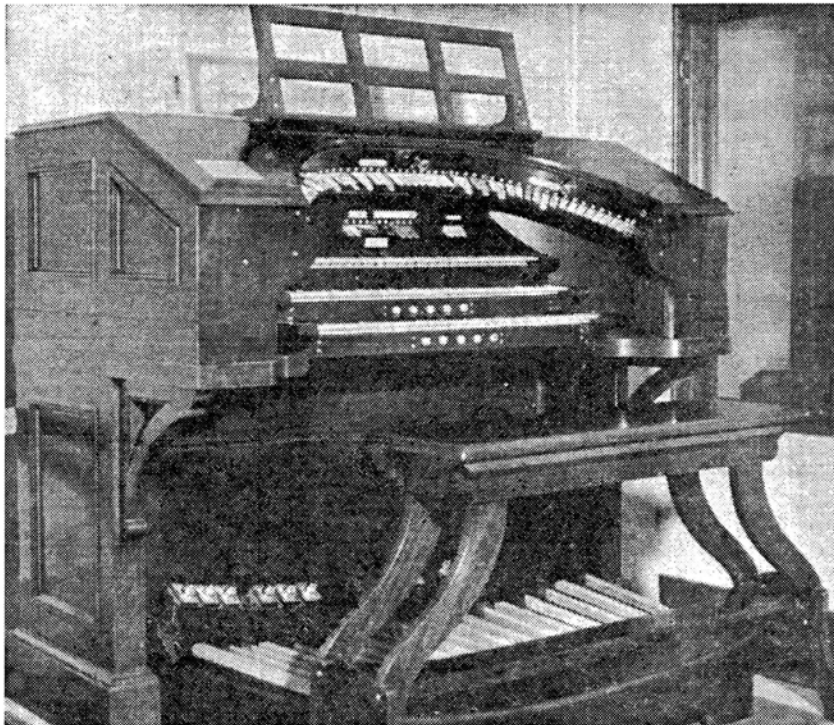
Other Northwest Theatre Organ Events

Hear the Wurlitzer at West Seattle's Hokum Hall at every program this summer! For information and reservations:

Phone (206) 937-3613 or email hokumhall@earthlink.net

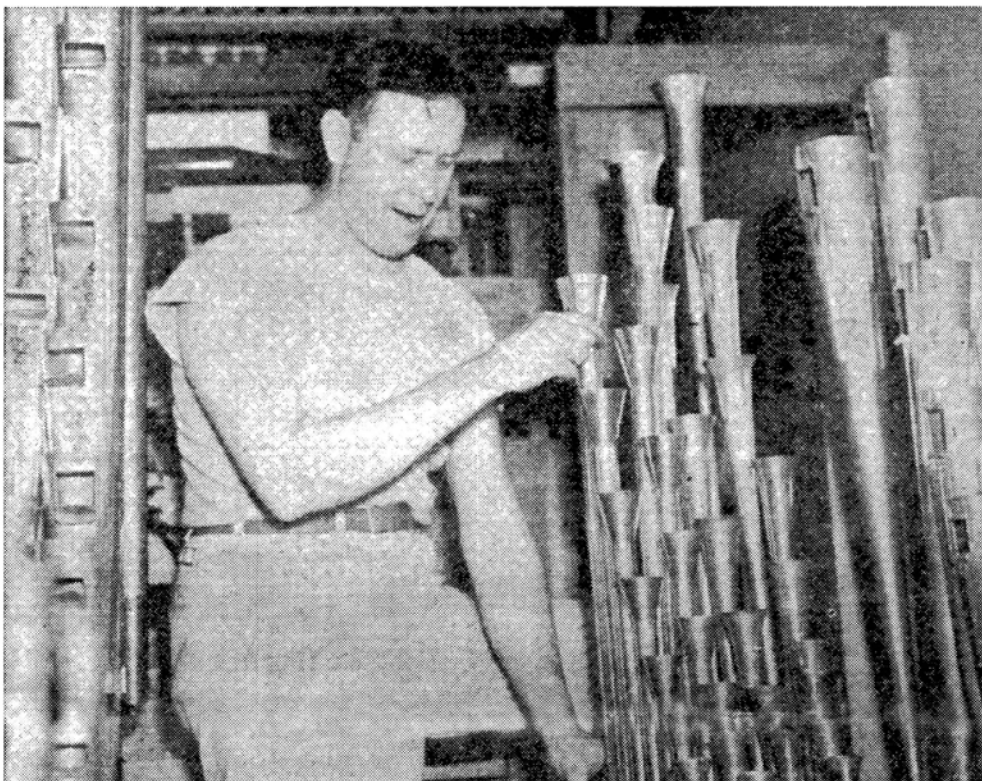
Pages From The Past...

The Oregonian Dedicates Its Great Radio Organ on KGW and KEX Tonight (July 14, 1935)



ABOVE: Console of *The Oregonian's* new radio organ.

BELOW: Master Organ Builder Balcom in one of the organ chambers.



Four Artists to Dedicate New Organ

KGW and KEX Join Tonight at 9:30 in Program

The Oregonian's new organ will be dedicated over KGW and KEX at 9:30 tonight with three of Portland's foremost organists playing the new instrument as guests of honor, in addition to The Oregonian's staff organist, Glen Shelley.

Installation of the organ was completed last Thursday after several weeks' work. According to its builders, it is the finest radio job on the Pacific coast, exceeding even network organs in size and quality of pickup. It is located on the seventh and eighth floors of The Oregonian building—a two-story installation, the only one of its kind in the country.

As his part of the dedication ceremony, which will be released over both Oregonian stations, Lucien E. Becker will play American Fantasia, his own composition. William Robinson Boone will play Schubert's Serenade, and Frederick W. Goodrich, another of the northwest's greatest musicians, will play the largo from Dvorak's New World Symphony. Mr. Shelley, to demonstrate the adaptability of the new organ, will play a medley of popular numbers.

One of the reasons for installing the great organ was the popularity of Mr. Shelley's broadcasts. His fan mail through the years has steadily increased, coming from as far south as Mexico up to as far north as the arctic circle, and the new organ will provide him an instrument more suited to the needs of radio.

This instrument was originally shipped from the Wurlitzer factory in December 1924 as opus #957, a Style DX (two chambers). It was installed in the Multnomah (Venetian) Theatre, St. Johns district of Portland. For more information, go to this website:

<http://www.pstos.org/organists/or/shelly.htm>

PSTOS helps launch fund raising effort to save historic Roosevelt High School pipe organ.

Roosevelt H.S. slated for 2-year renovation. Financial help is needed to save, refurbish and reinstall the school's 64-year-old pipe organ.... Can you please help?



The organ's early history

Mr. V. K. Froula was the first principal at Roosevelt High School. He served from 1922 when the school opened, to his death of a heart attack in November of 1938. In memory of this beloved principal, funds were raised for a two manual, seven rank

Moller organ which was installed in the auditorium at RHS in 1940. A number of our members are Roosevelt graduates, and they may remember the organ being played, especially if they were at Roosevelt in the earlier years.

Now the school is slated for renovation, and the organ has been put in storage under the direction of our President, Clint Meadway and with the assistance of PSTOS members Russ Evans and Carl Dodrill. The new theater has been generally designed to accommodate the organ, but due to limited funds, the construction budget for the school does not include the money to install the organ in the new theater. \$90,789 is needed to put the floors in the two pipe chambers, provide stairways to the chambers, accommodate the swell shades, provide electricity, and otherwise accommodate the installation of the instrument. **This money must be raised by October 1, 2004 to avoid an even higher cost if the organ installation is delayed and the building then must be retrofitted.**

The Pipe Organ Foundation, headed by PSTOS member Carl Dodrill, has kept the organ in working condition for the past two years, and has offered to refurbish and enhance the organ, donating the labor, at a

cost of \$25,000.00, mostly for materials. This money needs to be raised by June 1, 2005.

The theater organ at Franklin High School has been a project of PSTOS for many years. Roosevelt and Franklin are inevitably tied together as they are the only two high schools in the area with pipe organs. This is true even though the Roosevelt organ is a classical organ whereas the Franklin organ is a theater organ. Their complimentary natures in fact invite joint and cooperative efforts with guest artists and with students learning the organ at either school who can then play the instrument at the other school. However, this will not happen if the funds are not raised to get the Roosevelt organ back in that school's performing arts center.

Where is the organ now?

Roosevelt High's two manual seven rank Moller pipe organ had occupied two chambers on both sides of the auditorium stage since 1938. Now that the auditorium will become the library during the two year long remodeling project, the organ had to be moved. Brunner Brothers Construction was contracted by the school to remove, pack and store the organ. Because PSTOS member Carl Dodrill had cared for the organ for the prior two years, he was contacted for consultation.

So, Monday, April 5 found Russ Evans, Clint Meadway and Carl Dodrill at

Roosevelt to make it all happen. Brunner Brothers supplied six strapping young men to do the heavy stuff, a gray haired guy to make sure it was done right and a delightful grandmother to carefully wrap the pipes. The organ was removed over two days. All pipes, including the 16' metal Open Diapason, were wrapped individually in bubble wrap or paper. They were then crated. The windchests and other large components had skids attached. All wind openings were covered to keep bugs out. The swell shutters and other smaller parts were also crated. The organ was then loaded on a large moving van by professional movers and delivered to a school district storage area.

After the school renovation is completed, the organ will be releathered (it is all original leather). The console will be upgraded. A MIDI interface is planned. This work will be done under the auspices of the Pipe Organ Foundation with all volunteer help as will the reinstallation. When the time comes, you will read about it here! So, for now, the organ is safe and fund raising for completing the chambers in the new theater is under way.

Your PSTOS Board has voted to support this effort. ***Individual donations are also urgently needed, however, and before October 1st.*** All gifts are tax deductible. Questions to Carl Dodrill (206 236-3492). ***Please send your donations made out to the***

***Froula Memorial Organ Fund
Alliance for Education
c/o Andrea Wilson
1506 NE 76th Street
Seattle, Washington 98115***



Top photo— Froula Memorial Organ is visible at the front of the Roosevelt H.S. Auditorium.

Lower photo— PSTOS member Carl Dodrill checks the organ console.

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Put our PSTOS Sunshine Chairperson to work!

Know a PSTOS member who is ill, who has lost a loved one, or who needs a cheery note? If so, please contact our Sunshine Chair, Diane Whipple, and she will send a greeting, a note, or a sympathy card.

Please contact her at—

whippmd@integrity.com

2253-856-1156

26414 Woodland Way S.

Kent WA 9830-7616

Additional scholarships for deserving young organists OK'd by PSTOS Board

PSTOS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. One of our purposes is to encourage the development of young organists through the provision of scholarships for organ lessons. Our concerts at Wurlitzer Manor have greatly enlarged the fund and additionally, our membership has been generous with their contributions. As a result, the board feels we can award one and possibly two additional scholarships.

It's important that our members be aware of young talent, and provide the names of young folks who might benefit from our financial aid. Less people are studying organ today than in the past, and every young person who exhibits interest should be encouraged.

Please contact any board member with information about a potential scholarship candidate!

A message of appreciation to those who knew and remember our friend, Rose Ramage, who recently passed on...

Rose truly enjoyed her association with PSTOS. Organ playing was the center of her life. When she could no longer even play the piano, her desire to live soon faded. Please extend our thanks to all who knew her.

—Grace Warner, Rose's sister

Is your PSTOS name badge missing?

To order a brand new one, send your request along with a check for \$2 for each badge to

Norman Miller

2644 N.W. Esplanade

Seattle, WA 98117-2527

Please allow two to three weeks for processing.

PLEASE wear your badge to all PSTOS events! DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT!

Dave Wickerham given high praise for his performance at Chicago area's Joliet Weekend

Dave will perform for PSTOS at Gig Harbor's Wurlitzer Manor September 12th.

Board member Diane Whipple recently attended the Joliet Weekend near Chicago, and returned with enthusiastic reviews of Dave Wickerham's performances. They ranged from playing the full orchestral score as he accompanied Jelanie Eddington's piano rendition of Rhapsody in Blue, to a rousing and heartfelt patriotic medley, to outstanding renditions of well-loved hymns. Dave is also a pizza organist, with tremendous flair and exuberance.

Diane acquired Dave's CD made on the Sanfilippo residence 5/80 organ and says "the recording is truly spectacular, played by a highly creative, talented and exuberant young man, and is most highly recommended." She's looking forward to great things at Wurlitzer Manor in Gig Harbor on September 12th!

Tickets will be available the first week of August. Watch for your August Pipeline!