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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.8

August 2004

PSTOS proudly presents the highly energetic and exciting...



Dave Wickerham

This will be a completely different theatre pipe organ program, one you'll not want to miss!

Sunday, September 12, 2 pm

Gig Harbor's spectacular WURLITZER MANOR

The proceeds from this event will benefit the Froula Memorial Organ Fund established to save Roosevelt High School's 64-year-old pipe organ. Help is much needed! See page 3.

A Californian by birth, **DAVE WICKERHAM** began playing the electronic organ when only four years old, followed by serious lessons at the ripe old age of seven! He was 10, though, before he ever touched a real theatre pipe organ, and that began a career—when just 14, the family moved to Arizona and Dave became Associate Organist at the famous Organ Stop Pizza Restaurants in Phoenix, Mesa and Tucson.

He attended the University of Arizona in Tucson on a full scholarship, pursuing classical organ studies for six years with Dr. Roy Johnson.

In 1984 Dave moved to the Chicago area to become Staff Organist at Pipes and Pizza in Lansing, Illinois. In addition to his performance there, he concertized frequently, as well as ministering musically at various churches.

August of 1990 found the Wickerham family—Dave his wife and two young children—moving to Wisconsin, where he was one of the featured Staff Organists at the Piper Music Palace in Greenfield, a position he held for 10 years.

In the spring of 2000, Dave ushered in the new millennium with a new career opportunity as featured organist at Roxy's Pipe Organ Pizzeria, part of a \$26,000,000 expansion phase at

the FIESTA Casino and Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Wickerhams spent a year and a half there before returning back home to Wisconsin in August of 2001.

Dave has resumed his position at the Piper Music Palace and is also the principal organist at Williams Bay Lutheran Church in Lake Geneva, WI. He enjoys concertizing frequently to many audiences including various chapters of the American Theatre Organ Society. In April of 1999 he took great pleasure being a featured artist in Melbourne, Australia for the convention of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia for which he received rave reviews. He was invited back for a 5-week concert tour of Australia/N.Z. last summer.

He also enjoys recording and has recently released his second CD – recorded on the famous Kimball organ at John Dickinson High School, Wilmington, Delaware.

Currently, Dave and family are restoring and improving a residence that came equipped with a 3 manual, 15 rank, theatre pipe organ. He is enthusiastically exploring frontiers in the digital audio realm at his home studio. In his minimal spare time he enjoys family time, jogging, swimming, composing, theatre organ, digital sampling, midi and computers.

***ADMISSION • PSTOS, CROC, MBTOS members & friends \$15 • Non-members \$20
Special \$40 tickets will additionally benefit the Froula Organ fund, plus these ticket holders will be admitted a half-hour early with preferred seating, and enjoy a lovely champagne and hors d'oeuvres 'Meet the Artist Reception' following the event.***

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society

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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

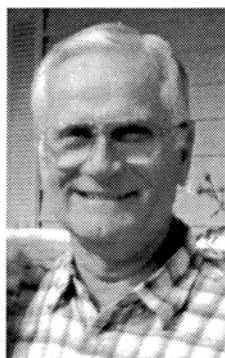
Classified-type ads for member-owned electronic, electric, or pipe organs, and/or pipe organ parts, will be published at no charge. Please limit copy to include brief description, contact name and phone number. Prices will not be listed. Ads may be edited for content and length. Mail ad copy to address above. Other advertising is not accepted.

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



It is time for a little summer potpourri, perhaps.

Surprise! There will be a summer Silent Movie Monday series at the Seattle Paramount after all. And it will be Rudolf Valentino on the silver screen with Dennis James at the Wurlitzer. Even if you don't like movies, it is worth hearing Dennis play one. Just close your eyes and enjoy the music. Volunteers are needed for the PSTOS lobby table. It takes a smiling face and a willingness to talk, that's all. Contact Tom Blackwell if you can help out.

New members of our theatre organ maintenance teams are Dan Warner and Mark Baratta. Welcome, guys. If others would like to join a team, contact Tom Blackwell or Bob Zat. They will put you to work.

Rumor has it that PSTOS is planning a joint program at the Paramount with the Seattle Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Some folks think AGO members are stuffy. Better smile when you say that, pardner. PSTOS board members Bob Zat, Carl Dodrill, Norman Miller, Clint Meadway and Andy Crow are all AGO members. This could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

Radical Idea Department: a suggestion was made that folks would like a chance to meet the artist and mingle with a smaller group after the concert. We are going to try this at the Dave Wickerham concert. For an extra charge you can arrive early, have your choice of the best seats (maybe even a padded folding chair) and mingle with the artist while enjoying champagne and hors d'oeuvres after the program. We hope you will like the idea and participate.

Radical Idea II Department: free concerts. They do it at Balboa Park in San Diego. Could we do it here? The press estimates that Dennis James will draw 4,000 for his silent movies there this summer. If you have some radical thoughts, I am always delighted to explore the possibilities. Get in touch and let's scheme and plot.

...Clint Meadway, President

PSTOS Coming Events

Midsummer Double Feature! *There's still time to get tickets!* **Do it NOW and join the fun!**

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!

Order your tickets now and attend 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. See front cover for all the details and ticket information.

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

ChiliPalooza!

Start fueling up for those chilly winter nights to come. Make a pot of your favorite chili for you and four of your PSTOS friends. Mild or Wild! Meat or Vegetarian! There'll be corn bread and beverages, too. More news coming! Haller Lake Community Club, N. Seattle
Sun., Oct. 24

Holiday Party/Annual Meeting

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

Jelani Eddington coming to Wurlitzer Manor May 15, 2004

One of the brilliant younger stars in the Theatre Organ World, a recent winner of ATOS Young Organist of the Year award, Jelani is wowing audiences world-wide. Mark your calendar now!

Update on fund raising to save the pipe organ at Seattle's Roosevelt High School

More than
\$10,000 has been
raised to date
toward the goal of
\$90,000 necessary to provide
a place for the organ to be reinstalled.



The new building has been generally designed to accommodate the organ, but the budget does not include funds to fit out the space with floors, stairways, swell shades, and reinstallation. These funds must be raised privately.

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 it to**

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

Here's a great opportunity to get involved and help our youthful organists!

PSTOS has a defined purpose—to "further the appreciation, restoration, and use of the historic theatre pipe organs of the 1920s, through education."

Education is the key. PSTOS has offered educational workshops, published educational articles in the *Pipeline*, presented numerous concerts for the benefit and education of the public, provided financial assistance to pipe organ preservation and restoration projects by other organizations, and most of all, actively worked to provide scholarships to aid talented young people in pursuing a musical education.

One area requires constant effort—the scholarship segment, and we need a Scholarship Chair.

What would such a person do? Primarily, we need to develop an organized and ongoing effort to locate suitable candidates. We could and should be supporting more than one student at a time.

Regular attendance at Board meetings would be optional, certainly not a requirement.

This is not an idle request. We need you! If you feel you would enjoy this sort of outreach, and could give a small amount of your time and effort to help further the PSTOS cause, please contact any of the officers or Board members on page 2.

Closing Chord

Rose Virkelyst

1926 - 2004

"Mom" and "Rose," as she was lovingly called by her family and friends,



passed away on June 26, 2004. Her strong spirit could no longer sustain her body, weakened by cancer.

Her positive attitude and refusal to give in was an inspiration to everyone fortunate enough to have had her touch their lives. She proved the following statement true over and over again: "It's not the burdens of life that weigh us down, it is how we handle them."

Rose lived her entire life in the Seattle area, marrying Clary Virkelyst in 1947. They raised three children. Rose would pick something she liked and learn as much as she could until she was satisfied and then move on to the next life experience. A great source of energy for her was the many people and groups she interacted with. Whether it was being a Docent at the Seattle Science Center, an avid Deltiologist, or teaching swimming, water ballet, piano and organ, she took great pleasure in sharing her knowledge and helping people learn new ideas and skills. Her greatest satisfaction came from her 27 years volunteering at Providence Mount St. Vincent, conducting musical programs for the residents.

Rose's smiling presence will be greatly missed at PSTOS events. Even as her cancer progressed, she never complained, always looking a friend straight in the eye and saying, "And how have you been?!" Only if asked would she talk of her own illness. What an inspiration she has always been to those PSTOS friends who have known her!

Sincere sympathy is extended to Clary and all of Rose's family.

Other Northwest Theatre Organ Events



Seattle's Paramount Theatre features **VALENTINO** in this silent movie series. All accompanied on the Wurlitzer by Dennis James.

Monday, August 2, 7PM, Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (1921)

Monday, August 9, 7PM, Blood and Sand (1922)

Monday, August 16, 7PM, THE EAGLE (1925)

Monday, August 23, 7PM, The Shiek (1921), & Son of the Shiek (1926)

All seats \$12 at the box office prior to the movie. For details of each movie, go to <http://www.theparamount.com/paramount.html?/popup-paramount.html>

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.. 1974 & 1979

Four Seattle theaters recommended as historic landmarks

This Seattle Times article, written by Polly Lane, ran nearly 30 years ago on November 7, 1974

The City Landmarks Board yesterday voted to recommend designation of four downtown theaters as landmarks and deferred action on another.

Recommended to the City Council for designation were the Moore, Coliseum, Paramount and Seventh Avenue theaters.

Action was deferred on designating the Fifth Avenue Theater and the Skinner Building which surrounds it. That property is part of the University of Washington-owned downtown tract. The motion to defer was proposed by Art Andersen, engineer member of the board and approved by a 5-to-4 vote.

Owners of all of the buildings opposed designation, expressing fears that economic considerations may eventually force them to close the theaters and the opinion that they didn't want to tangle with the board at a future time when change or demolition might be necessary. If a building is designated under the city ordinance, the landmarks board must ap-

prove changes to the historic parts of a structure or demolition.

Broadway High School, the only building the City Council approved as a landmark, was torn down after Superior Court judge ruled the state had jurisdiction on the property. The Bay Building, not designated by the Council, although recommended by the board, also is being torn down.

Most of the theater owners (except for the Moore's which was not represented at the hearing) complained their buildings have outlived their purpose and they anticipate economic problems in keeping them.

Some said there was no other use for them.

Earl Layman, the city's historic-preservation officer, told the board about two old buildings (a post office and a downtown hotel) in Washington, D.C., which long stood empty, but now are being restored for other uses.

"They are being redeveloped because of designation. I don't understand this constant fear of historic-landmark status."

Layman said people here aren't aware that money is available to study potential adaptive uses, as well as for restoration, for buildings designated.

The Moore and the Paramount Theaters already have been listed on National Register of Historic Places which makes them eligible for matching funds for restoration from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Fifth Avenue Theater deferment resulted from a motion by Andersen, who said he believed they should talk over the potential of the theater's future use with the owners before acting.

He was supported by Mrs. Gerry Lucks, who said she believes the board must seek cooperation from owners, and by Mrs. Barbara Buck, who said she thinks the board has been moving too fast in recommending designations.

5th Avenue Theater's revival may bring top shows to Seattle

This Seattle Times article, written by Carole Beers and Polly Lane, ran nearly 25 years ago on September 19, 1979.

The tentative booking of the Broadway hit musical, "Annie," into the Fifth Avenue Theater on July 1 dictates how serious UNICO Properties is about returning the theater to operation.

The UNICO decision to restore the theater as a performing-arts center was announced today. It not only will save the 53-year-old entertainment palace, a work of art and of distinct historical value, but also will reinforce Seattle's bid for top show-business attractions.

Several road shows, name artists, major film festivals, large orchestras — as well as local productions — have bypassed Seattle the past few years, or have been relegated to less-lucrative dates in smaller halls, because Seattle lacked a theater comparable with the overbooked Opera House.

With the addition of the Fifth Avenue

with its 2,160 seats (the Opera House has 3,000 seats), Seattle's theatrical bargaining position will be improved.

The Northwest Releasing Corp. has expressed interest in The Fifth Avenue for road shows and recitals. It recently obtained a three-year lease on the Moore Egyptian Theater for shows such as "The Wiz," "A Chorus Line" and "Chicago." It would be able to present more such shows when The Fifth Avenue becomes available.

Ernest Martin of the Los Angeles Civic Light Opera has had his eye on The Fifth Avenue, with the idea of bringing in his operettas and musicals on a Portland-Seattle-Vancouver, B.C. tour. He also wants to bring in name entertainers such as Liza Minelli.

Officials at Pacific Northwest Ballet long have considered the theater as a per-

forming space.

First Chamber Dance Company, Northwest Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Civic Light Opera and film-festival bookers all have shown interest in using the theater.

The remodeling will take six to eight months. It will include:

- Deepening of the stage to 36 feet.

- Changing the pitch of the floor to increase sight lines and widening and reducing the number of seats from 2,400 to 2,160 (including the balcony).

- Creation of an orchestra space large enough for 50 musicians.

- Enlarging the stage's "gridiron" to handle the largest stagings.

- New dressing rooms and restrooms.

- Improved flooring suitable for dancing.

Richard McCann, Seattle architect

Pages From The Past...continued



The Fifth Avenue Theater chandelier symbolizes a "pearl of perfection" suspended from a dragon's mouth.

who directed restoration of San Francisco's Orpheum Theater, is project architect.

The theater was designed by R.C. Reamer. It opened in the fall of 1926 but has been closed since January, 1978.

The nomination of the theater to the National Register cites it as one of the "best preserved movie palaces" in the United States. Its lobby resembles a Chinese temple and the auditorium ceiling is patterned after the audience hall in the Forbidden City (the palace) in Peking.

The ceiling contains a central dome with a huge dragon head radiating multicolored scales. Suspended from the dragon's mouth is a globe chandelier symbolizing the "pearl of perfection."

The 68-foot proscenium arch is a traditional Chinese polygonal arch and the furnishings, curtains, wallcoverings and other decor all follow the Chinese traditional theme.

Since 1962, virtually the only high-quality local theater capable of handling major attractions (including the local "majors") was the Opera House. It allowed booking agents not only to meet the asking price of large orchestras, road shows, big-name soloists and touring dance groups, such as American Ballet Theater (not seen here

for six years) and the Royal Ballet, but enabled them to show profit as well.

The problem is that the Opera House is booked up to three years in advance, without the three-to-seven consecutive available days needed for bigger shows.

Both the less glamorous Paramount and the Moore have large seating capacities but have been used primarily for rock shows and films, respectively.

Meany Hall at the University of Washington seats only 1,200 persons, and the university has first option for it.

Seattle Center Playhouse seats only 900 persons, which puts it out of the running for big shows.

Limited by only one big, high class house, Seattle has missed entertainment that routinely plays in Portland and Vancouver. B. C.

The 5th Avenue Theatre's Wurlitzer

The 5th Avenue Theatre originally had a Wurlitzer four-manual, 18 rank "Special" (opus 1388) installed in 1926. The console was the standard panel-style. The only decoration was a very subdued Asian design painted on the sides. It was located on a hydraulic lift in the center of the orchestra pit.

The theatre had many organists including Berthold Lindgren and Betty S. Hilton in 1927.

In the late 1960s, PSTOS members were hopeful that they would be able to begin restoring the instrument, but on March 1, 1969 the University of Washington Board of Regents announced that it had been sold to Bill Breuer of Palo Alto, California.

This created a stir on the part of Seattle theatre organ enthusiasts, led by ATOE's former president, Dick Schrum. Dick stated that the Puget Sound Chapter had a contract with Fox-Evergreen Theatres to restore the organ, and that the Chapter was not given the opportunity to bid on the instrument. A spokesman for the Regents said that it was not necessary to solicit bids to dispose of the instrument, valued at \$10,000 by Sandy Balcom who had maintained the organ for several years.

Bill Breuer, who operated the pipe organ-equipped Cap'n's Galley restaurant in Santa Clara California, removed the instrument and it was stored for several months before being installed at the Redwood City Cap'n's Galley Pizza & Pipes restaurant.

For much more fascinating history of Seattle area's theatres and theatre organs, go to www.pstos.org. Click on N.W. Theatre Organ History, then on Washington. You could easily while away an entire evening just reading all this fascinating information.

Member **Tom Blackwell** is responsible for this fantastic encyclopedia of N.W. theatre organ history. He deserves your applause and support!

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of residence. We will do
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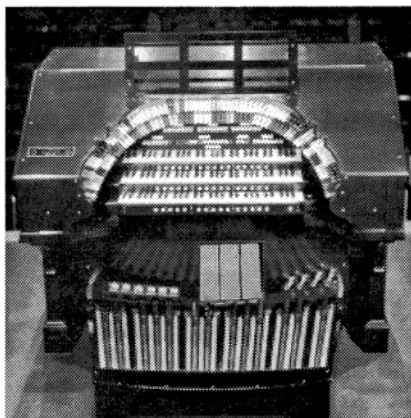
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this fun event.***



**Saturday,
August 14th**

Celebrate Summer!
Big PSTOS
DOUBLE FEATURE
Event!

1 **RARE OPPORTUNITY!**
**See, hear and play the Wurlitzer at Olympia's
WASHINGTON CENTER**

- Hear **ANDY CROW** in a mini-program!
- Take a turn during Open Console!

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

2 **Then drive the short distance to Yelm and
ST. COLUMBAN CHURCH
where you'll be served the Church Ladies'
FAMOUS BUFFET LUNCH at 1:00 PM.**

**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!

**Reservations are a MUST! Please use the order form from your last Pipeline,
or contact Marilyn Schrum at**

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