PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

PUGET SOUND THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Volume 36, Nos. 11-12 November-December 2025 www.pstos.org

2025 Holiday Celebration

Sunday, December 14

1:00

Haller Lake Community Club
12579 Densmore Ave. N
Seattle WA 98133

Music from our local artists of all ages

Come enjoy music and fun activities

All ages welcome!!

Yummy refreshments

Please **RSVP** so that we will have enough refreshments for everyone to enjoy!

Email joann@pstos.org or phone 425-485-5465 & leave a message with your name & number attending.
THANK YOU!!

Donations at the door are greatly appreciated!
Suggested donation $10. Age 16 & under free.

Prior to the afternoon's entertainment, we will have a brief Annual meeting where we vote on and install 2026 officers and directors as follows:

President: Grahame McMaster
Past President: Jamie Snell
Vice-President: Barb Graham
Secretary: Annabelle Schertzinger
Treasurer: Jim Welch

Directors:
Phil Hargiss
Bob Borton
Bob Zat
Jo Ann Evans

Directions to Haller Lake Community Club:
Northbound I-5: Use Exit 174 onto NE 130th St. Turn left over freeway one long block to 1st Ave. NE. Turn left (south) one block to 128th. Right on NE 128th a few blocks to Densmore. Left on Densmore. Clubhouse is on the right. Parking both front & rear. Handicapped entry with parking & an elevator at rear of building.

Southbound I-5: Use Exit 175 onto NE 145th, turn right one block to 1st Ave. NE. Turn left (south) continuing through NE 130th to NE 128th. Right on NE 128th a few blocks to Densmore. Left on Densmore, clubhouse is on the right. Parking both front & rear. Handicapped entry with parking and an elevator at rear of building.

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Vol. 36, Nos. 11-12 Nov-Dec 2025

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Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society
10002 Aurora Ave N, Suite 36 #516
Seattle, WA 98133-9329

Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization furthering the appreciation, restoration, and use of the historic Theatre Pipe Organs of the 1920s through education.

OFFICERS
President—*Jamie Snell, Jamie@pstos.org*
Past Pres.—*Bob Zat, bob@pstos.org*
Vice President—*Barb Graham, barb@pstos.org*
Secretary—*Jo Ann Evans, joann@pstos.org*
Treasurer—*Jim Welch, jim@pstos.org*

DIRECTORS
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Bob Borton, borton@pstos.org
Tyler Pattison, tyler@pstos.org
Grahame McMaster, grahame@pstos.org

COMMITTEES & ROLES
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Program Planning Team—*Jo Ann Evans, Barb Graham, Jamie Snell, Ellen Sullivan, Bob Zat, Terry Perdue, Marie Perdue*
Paramount Crew Chief—*Phil Hargiss*
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Haller Lake Community Club—*Jamie Snell*
Paramount Theatre—*Phil Hargiss*
Calvary Christian Assembly—*Jeff Snyder*
ATOS—*Bob Borton*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This will be my final President's Message, as I'm stepping down from this office at the end of the year. My main message to PSTOS members and followers is what a privilege it has been to serve. It's been hugely satisfying to help keep the organization going, to help put on concerts and other events, to perform occasionally, to work with so many stalwart theatre organ enthusiasts, and to develop many friendships along the way. I won't be disappearing, just reducing my responsibilities so that I can get a better balance with the rest of life. Many thanks to everyone who has pitched in to keep PSTOS the joyful and vibrant group that it is.

We have one more event to look forward to this year, our annual **holiday party** on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 1:00 at Haller Lake Community Club, featuring the usual festive decorations, holiday songs, high spirits, and yummy treats. We plan to have several performers, younger and older, and hope to see you there for the fun! As always, the program will be preceded by a brief membership meeting to formally approve new officers and Board members.

Looking toward 2026, the Program Planning Team has planned three major Saturday concerts at Calvary Christian Assembly, featuring fabulous artists: Ken Double on May 16, Ben Forsthoffer on July 25, and Dave Wickerham on Oct. 10. In addition, we're planning spring and summer social events, along with the holiday party.

As always, we need volunteers to help with a variety of activities to keep PSTOS running smoothly, including: program planning and event production; organ maintenance and preparation for events; assembling and distributing the Pipeline newsletter; member outreach and event promotion; maintaining relations with venues and other organizations; and managing the organization overall. If you could contribute a little time, we would be so grateful.

As we head into winter, I wish you Happy Holidays and a joyous new year!

Jamie Snell,
President

Plan ahead—
Renew your membership for 2026! Renew online or check the website pstos.org.
$25 per family

Also consider joining ATOS.
$35 for the first year or returning members.
www.atos.org.

ATOS membership includes the bi-monthly Theatre Organ magazine and other benefits!

2026 Concerts

Ken Double — May 16

Ken Double had a “double” career as both a theatre organist and a professional broadcaster. With a degree in Radio-TV from Butler University, he broadcast NBA & Big Ten basketball, NHL, IHL, & AHL hockey, the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race and hundreds of other events. His first theatre organ concert was in 1978 and since then he has played around the world, made more than a dozen recordings, and served as ATOS President 2007-2017 and as Master of Ceremonies for ATOS national and regional conventions. We’re excited to welcome him back to Seattle.

Ben Forsthoffer — July 25

Ben’s passion for the theatre organ started at age 5 when he first heard the Wurlitzer at Radio City Music Hall in New York City. Now he is a student of Jelani Eddington and is also fluent in improvisatory jazz piano and highly capable in classical piano, which influences his unique style, grounded in technically flawless playing and traditional theatre organ technique. He was one of the featured performers at the ATOS convention in summer 2025. You will want to hear him in Seattle!

Dave Wickerham — October 10

Dave is one of PSTOS’ most beloved theatre organists. He writes about himself, “For as long as I can remember, music has been an integral part of my very being. It is the one truly universal language and has served as a vehicle allowing me to convey—at the deepest level—my feelings, passion, and most of all JOY! I can’t imagine life and this world without MUSIC!!” His concerts are always unique treats, and we look forward to having him back in October 2026. Plan now to attend and bring friends!

Other planned 2026 events:

Spring Fling - March 22, 2026

Summer Social - August 16 or 23, 2026

Holiday Party - December 6, 2026

Nick Renkosik Wows at CCA

by Jamie Snell

Excitement was in the air on September 27 as the audience gathered for the fourth and final PSTOS concert of the year, featuring Nick Renkosik at Calvary Christian Assembly's 3/25 Kimball-Wurlitzer. Renkosik hails from Kenosha, WI, just north of Chicago, and has an unusual range of talents: On the musical side, he holds a B.A. in Instrumental Performance (organ and piano), has performed widely around the country, plays regularly at the Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee, and is organist at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Johnsburg, IL. He is also an expert in technical aspects of pipe organs, and is the lead restoration technician for the prestigious organ curator JL Weiler, Inc. in Chicago. He is also an ambitious entrepreneur, and just last year earned an M.S. in Business Design and Innovation. This young man surely has an exciting future ahead, and we're fortunate to have him visit the Pacific Northwest for the first time to play for us.

After an introduction by emcee Jeff Snyder, Renkosik opened with the classic tune "A Wonderful Guy" from the 1949 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *South Pacific*, followed by a jazzy version of Walter Donaldson's 1927 hit "At Sundown (When Love Is Calling Me Home)," recorded by Bing Crosby and many others. Next, the Gershwin tune "Bidin' My Time" from the 1930 musical *Girl Crazy*, and Donaldson's "Tain't No Sin (To Dance Around in Your Bones)" from 1929. Then a medley of six Duke Ellington hits: "I'm Beginning to See the Light," "Take the 'A' Train," "Caravan," "Creole Love Call," "Satin Doll," and "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got that Swing)." Next, Gershwin's last song, "Love Is Here to Stay," unfinished when he died in 1937, and completed by his brother, Ira, and others. And to close the first half, Con Conrad's "The Continental," introduced in the 1934 Astaire & Rogers film *The Gay Divorcee*.

Following a brief intermission, Renkosik resumed with a lively rendition of "The Donkey Serenade" from the 1937 film *The Firefly*, an adaptation of Rudolf Friml's 1918 orchestral piece "Chanson." Then, for a change of pace, "Take Five," the Dave Brubeck tune named for its unusual 5/4 time signature, and then the 1927 Eugene Ford tune "Rain." Next up, a medley of songs popularized by Frank Sinatra: "New York, New York," "Chicago," "In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning," "Nice Work if You Can Get It," "Here's that Rainy Day," and "From this Moment On." Then the 1932 Dana Suesse tune "My Silent Love," and a pair of mid-60s Burt Bacharach songs, "What the World Needs Now" and "I Say a Little Prayer," a hit for Dionne Warwick and Aretha Franklin. And to end the concert, legendary organist Kay McAbee's arrangement of the 1940 Dorsey band hit "The Breeze and I," based on Ernesto Lecuona's "Andalucía." Returning to the console after wild applause, Renkosik encored with the Burton Lane tune "Applause, Applause," written for the 1953 musical *Give a Girl a Break*. As Renkosik took his final bow, there was plenty of applause, applause!

Comments from audience members were enthusiastic. One said, "…he selected the kind of music I think we all hope for." Others remarked that the organ sounded terrific and he showed off its resources well, he played entirely from memory, and his arrangements were virtuosic with many unusual key changes. We're sure to hear more about this gifted young artist, and look forward to having him back in Seattle.

Many thanks, as always, to Nick Renkosik and everyone at CCA and PSTOS who helped make this concert a success!

Silent Movie Mondays at the Paramount Theater

Monday, January 26, 2026
Lady Windermere's Fan (1925)
Donna Parker at the Wurlitzer

Step back into the elegance and wit of the Roaring Twenties with *Lady Windermere's Fan*, director Ernst Lubitsch's sparkling silent adaptation of Oscar Wilde's classic comedy of manners. A tale of scandal, secrets, and society gossip unfolds as a young woman suspects her husband of infidelity—only to discover a deeper truth about love and sacrifice.

Monday, April 27, 2026
Faust (1926)
Christian Elliott at the Wurlitzer

Witness a battle for the soul on the grandest scale in F.W. Murnau's silent masterpiece *Faust,* a landmark of German Expressionist cinema. With breathtaking visuals, stunning special effects, and haunting atmosphere, this legendary adaptation of Goethe's classic tale follows a scholar who makes a fateful deal with the devil.

Monday, July 27, 2026
The General (1926)
Tyler Pattison at the Wurlitzer
Paul Hansen on Foley Sound

Widely regarded as one of the greatest silent films ever made, Buster Keaton's *The General* delivers breathtaking stunts, perfectly-timed comedy, and pulse-pounding action—all set against the backdrop of the American Civil War. Keaton stars as a devoted train engineer whose beloved locomotive and sweetheart are both stolen by enemy forces, leading to one of cinema's most thrilling and hilarious chase sequences.

All shows begin at 7 p.m. $12 general admission / $10 for seniors

AGO Programs

Classical organ events for your enjoyment
More information at www.agoseattle.com.

Saturday, November 1, 9:30 a.m. to noon
Worksh9op on Spiscopal Liturgy & Music, St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 722 N. 145th St., Shoreline, 98133.

Saturday, November 1, 4:00 p.m.
Evensong Choral Service followed by open console time. Church of the Ascension, Magnolia, 2330 W. Viewmont Way W., Seattle 98199. Reception to follow.

Saturday, November 1, 5:30 p.m.
All Souls Requiem Mass with chamber orchestra, St.James Cathedral, 804 9th Ave. Seattle 98104.

Sunday, November 2, 5:00 p.m.
Faure's Requiem will be presented at St. Thomas Episcopal, 8398 NE 12th St., Medina, 98039

Saturday, November 8, 7:30 p.m.
Recital by the students of Kyle Canaday, principal organist at Blessed Sacrament, 5041 9th Ave. NE, Seattle, 98105.

Sunday, November 9, 3:00 p.m.
Richard Moe Organ Recital Series on the Fritts organ at Lagerquist Hall, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma.

Saturday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.
Lake Union Civic Orchestra at Blessed Sacrament , 5041 9th Ave., NE, Seattle, 98105. $25/$20.

Sunday, November 16, 3:00 p.m.
Faith Lutheran, 8208 18th Ave., NE, Seattle, 98115, presents Blaine harpsichordist Angela Gavey. Free to all.

Friday, November 21, 12:10 noon
Third Friday concert at Christ Episcopal, 310 North K St., Tacoma, 98403. Free-will donations at the door.

Saturday, November 22, 8:00 p.m.
Palestrina & his Eontemporaries, St. James Catherdral, 804 9th Ave., Seattle, 98104.

Friday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 6, 3:00 p.m.
Two performances of selections from Handel's Messiah at Blessed Sacrament, 5041 9th Ave. NE., Seattle, 98105.

Friday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 6, 7:30 p.m.
Two performances of selections from Handel's Messiah at Epiphany Episcopal, 1805 38th Ave., Seattle, 98122. $48

Saturday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.
Christmas at the console, Kyle Canaday, Blessed Sacrament, 5041 9th Ave. NE, Seattle, 98105.

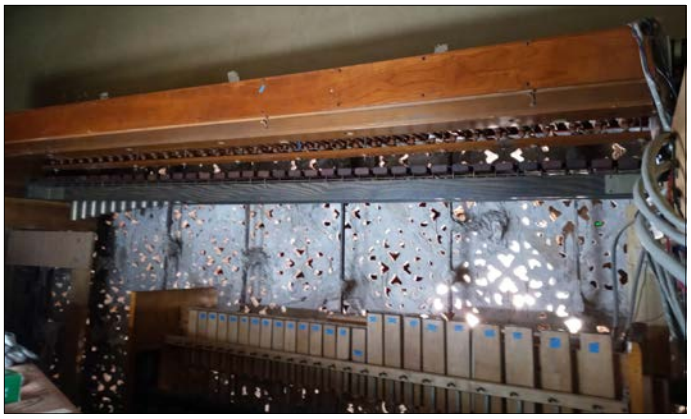
Saturday, December 13, 7:30 p.m
Magnolia Chorale presents Francis Poulenc's "Gloria" at Magnolia Lutheran Church, 2414 31st Ave. W, Seattle, 98199. $20, $15 for seniors, free for ages 17 & under.

Friday, December 19, 12:10 noon
Third Friday concert at Christ Episcopal, 310 North K St., Tacoma,98493, Donations at the door.

Saturday, December 20, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle Bach Festival presents JS Bach's Christmas Oratorio at Trinity Lutheran, Lynnwood.

Sunday, December 21, 3:00 p.m.
Seattle Bach Festival at Seattle First Baptist Church.

Phil Hargiss and his wonderful team of volunteers completed a project at the Paramount just before the September Silent Movie Monday. The refurbished xylophone is now mounted on new framing as close to the grille as possible which allows more room for additions to the chamber. Also visible in the photo is the Metal Harp (Vibraharp) which is below the right end of the xylophone. **Way to go, Team!**



Welcome new member!

Marilee Morse
Sequim, WA

2026 ATOS Convention
July 6-10. 2026
Rochester, NY

See the preview video & start planning now to attend:
https://atos2026.org/test-video/

Hear our 2026 artists—
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7hdAXE8qSg - KD
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g1aVIeYaz48 - BF
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvACSAQBkbE - DW

The Pipeline publishes, at the editor's discretion, one-time free ads submitted by PSTOS members, no larger than 2 column inches, including a brief description of the item, contact info, and optionally an image, but not the price of the item.

Become a PSTOS Sponsor!

Sponsor one of our 2026 Concerts!

Sponsorship levels:
Bronze - $100
Silver - $300
Gold - $500

Experience the joy of helping bring quality theatre organ music to the Pacific Northwest!

We'll list our sponsors in our newsletter and on our website,
with your permission, of course.

If you know friends, family, or a corporation who would also like to be a sponsor,
feel free to give them this information.

PSTOS is a 501(c)3 organization.

Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Yes, I would like to Sponsor a 2026 Concert!

☐ Ken Double ☐ Ben Forsthoffer ☐ Dave Wickerham

At this level: ☐ Bronze ☐ Silver ☐ Gold

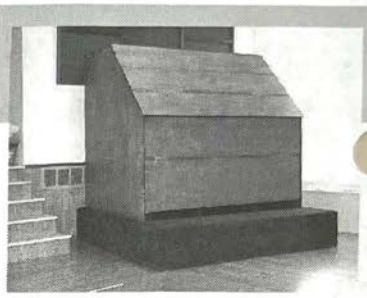
Name_____

Address_____

Email_____Phone_____

Send your tax-deductible donation to: PSTOS, 10002 Aurora Ave. N, Suite 36 #516, Seattle, WA 98133
or donate online on our website: pstos.org *THANK YOU!*

Pages From The Past..



What's in the Mystery Box?

The story of the PSTOS theatre pipe organ at Haller Lake Community Club.

Visitors to the hall often ask what's hidden in 'the big box in the corner!'

First, a bit of pipe organ history...

There are four basic components of a pipe organ: it must have pipes that produce sound; the pipes are placed on a wind chest that stores air; the air must be under pressure that has been mechanically generated; the air to the pipes must be controlled by a keyboard.

The first device meeting these criteria was called a Hydraulis in the third century B.C. This early instrument was very much a part of the musical life of ancient Rome, but what music was played, or for what use, is unknown.

The earliest approach to movie accompaniment was a plain ordinary piano, with somebody playing "something!" Soon a drum, a bell, a boat whistle were added so the pianist could pull a rope and activate one of these action sounds to punctuate the movie—a giant step forward.

The larger theatres had small orchestras to accompany vaudeville shows, the usual bill of fare at that time, and these orchestras often provided music during the silent movies.

The big period of the building of theatre organs was 1910–1930. There were many many companies building these instruments, the largest of which was Wurlitzer—to the extent that Wurlitzer became virtually a generic term for Theatre Organ.

Every theatre needed "sound" to bring life to the silent screen. Again the earliest instrument used was the piano. Then some pipes and sound effects were added to the piano. Orchestras were used in the very largest downtown theatres. The full-fledged theatre organ enabled one person to accompany the film more effectively than an entire orchestra, since he could precisely synchronize sound effects with the film—something extremely difficult for an entire orchestra.

The Wurlitzer firm was huge, making every conceivable musical product from violins to pipe organs.

In 1920 an Englishman named Robert Hope-Jones joined the Wurlitzer firm and created the first full-fledged theatre organ as we know them today. In 1914, the first truly successful theatre organ was built by Wurlitzer for the Seattle Liberty Theatre. Until this time Wurlitzer had produced about 40 large theatre organs but with many problems or failures. Hope-Jones brought to Wurlitzer numerous innovations, helping to set the company apart from the rest. The Seattle Liberty instrument set Wurlitzer on the path to becoming a huge financial success for the next 20 years. In the mid-1920s the firm was shipping one complete theatre organ every day Interestingly enough, Wurlitzer sold theatre organs to hotels, churches, homes AND theatres.

Of the approximately 2,030 theatre organs built by Wurlitzer, the organ in Haller Lake Community Club is number 1432, shipped from the North Tonawanda, N.Y., factory, near Buffalo, in July, 1926.

It was a Style D, with a roll player and consisted of two manuals (keyboards) and six ranks (voices) of pipes. There were three voices each in the chambers on each side of the auditorium, thus creating one of the very earliest stereo effects.

The interesting thing about this instrument is that it was never installed in a theatre! Instead, it was sold to the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Dayton, Ohio, and was used for entertainment as well as club meetings for about 25 years. By the mid-1950s, Bingo had become really big and the organ was used less and less. It was decided to remove the console from the main auditorium along with its controlling relays. The main cable was cut and no one to this day knows what happened to the original console and relays. What you see in the big box is in fact a replacement console manufactured by another company busily making theatre organs.

In April, 1959, hobbyists throughout the United States were looking for theatres wishing to dispose of their now unused instruments. The Leonard McMahon family discovered this instrument and approached the officers of the Eagles. The instrument was offered to the McMahons for $50—all the pipework, everything in the pipe chambers, which had virtually been forgotten. There was no way to play the organ until it had a new console, and the family located in Toledo, Ohio, the console used today, purchasing it for $325—seven times the cost of the basic instrument!

The family invested hours and hours of time releathering and rebuilding the instrument and installed it in their home. Soon thereafter, Mr. McMahon, who was employed by Boeing, was relocated to Seattle, with Boeing agreeing to pay for all the household moving expenses—never imagining the family owned a pipe organ which probably doubled the moving expense! Upon arrival in Seattle the family reinstalled the instrument in their new Queen Anne home.

In 1967, the McMahons attended a Puget Sound Chapter function, then left the next day for a motor trip. Sadly, in Idaho a truck came across the center line and in the accident Mr. McMahon was killed instantly.

Puget Sound Chapter was looking for an instrument upon which our members could practice, and which could be used for programs, and in due time, Mrs. McMahon sold us the instrument for $4500.

Our Chapter, not having adequate funds, sold its members $50 bonds, enabling the purchase of the instrument. But this was just a start. It was stored in a member's home in the Northgate area and the long search for a "home" was begun. We explored possibilities in the Magnolia Theatre, and the Roycroft Theatre, which was at that time the Russian Community Center, and they definitely were not interested! Numerous other venues were looked into with no success, until one day a light went on! Our president, Harry Harkness, was also at that time president of Haller Lake Improvement Club. Through his efforts with the Boards of Directors of both groups, an agreement was reached to install the organ in this building.

Haller Lake members Dick & Betty Chang and Doris Harkness were very

Pages From The Past. . . continued

volved in the organ installation during 1968–1969.

Dick and Betty Chang sorted pipes

One side of the stage area was in use as a storage room for a Masonic lodge which was meeting in the building. The other side of the back stage area was nothing less than a "Fibber McGee's closet."

An architect drew up the working plans to remodel the stage creating chamber space on each side. Our members did virtually all the construction and completed the chamber area as you see it today. We also bought in our own electric service with our own meter.

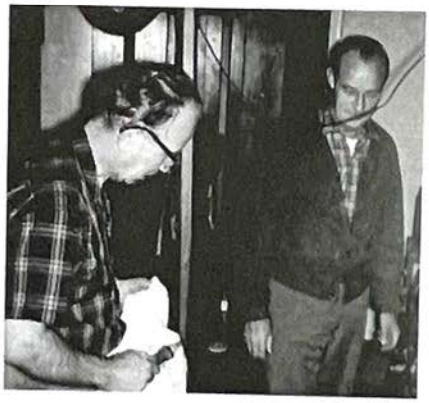
When finally installed, the stage end of the auditorium looked very nice, and the rest of the room, by comparison, needed a face-lift. So the Haller Lake Board authorized a new layer of plaster board around the entire room, and a change in lighting.

The opening program on our newly installed organ was in September 1969, with Australian organist Tony Fenelon—a great day that we called a Yankee Picnic!

We have now passed the 35-year mark, we've added three additional voices (kinura, string celeste, clarinet) to the original six in the organ, we have a renewed contract with Haller Lake Community Club, and we look forward to many years of continued sharing of the auditorium!

Dick Chang at work

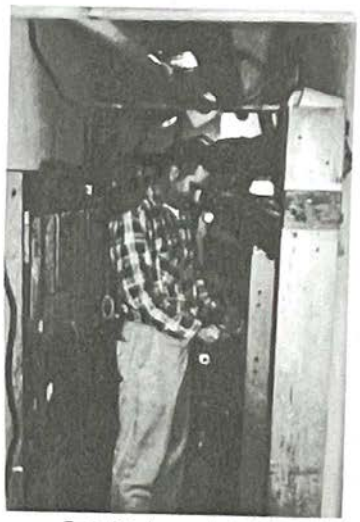
Dick Schrum wondering just how everything will fit together



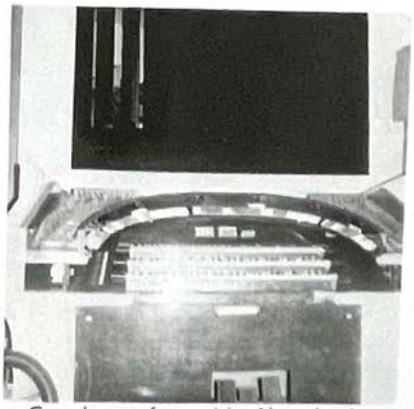
Bob Jones and Tom Endresen hard at wotk in the Main chamber. [Bob just celebrated his 90th birthday, and is still an active PSTOS member. Tom, too, is still a member.]

Harold Musolf soldering windlines.

Millie Lawrence wonders what's next



Ernie Manley worked on relay wiring in the basement



Console open for servicing. Note chamber opening behind, not yet covered with its present-day grill cloth screen