



Valley  
of the Sun  
Chapter

# STOPRAIL

Arizona Chapter of  
The American Theatre Organ Society

Since 1976

Volume Thirty Five ♦ Issue Two ♦ February ♦ Two Thousand Ten

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## First Christian Church February 27 7:00 pm

Don't miss this Saturday evening meeting. Tucson member Don Story will play our program. Put on your thinking caps, he plays obscure stuff! The Wurlitzer there is one of our favorites. Members enjoy playing it after the meeting because it is so user friendly. Parking is a breeze and it is a comfortable venue. Usually there are tables all around. Meeting is on a Saturday evening this time, February 27th at 7.00 pm. Church is at 6750 North 7th Ave Phoenix. It's south of Glendale Avenue on the west side of the street

## Safety Last a success

Wow! Did folks ever have a good time! There were more than a dozen people who came dressed in period costumes of the earlier 1900s, the years around the silent film era. They had a wonderful time doing this, and posed for photos by Don Hall, Cinema teacher from Gateway Community College, and our Master of Ceremonies. Tom Fizzell counted 19 people from VOTS, a better turnout than usual. If carpooling would enable more people to go, then we could make a list of people who could take others along and another list of those needing a ride and pair them up. Somebody please volunteer to coordinate this and the information will be included in the next Stoprail. The movie was very exciting and some people said they chewed up their fingernails and cheeks towards the last. Don Hall told how they made the scenes where Harold Lloyd climbed the building, and it was a great story. Before the past two films, Don has told stories about how they created some of these scenes and it is very interesting. Ron played a magnificent preshow program. He even included bird tweeting sounds with the pigeons on Harold's hat for the film.



Try to make it to the March silent film, Ella Cinders. She was in a comic strip in addition to her movies, and she was quite a character there too.

*2010 is our 35th anniversary. Should we celebrate?*

## 2010 Board Members

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## 2009 Appointees:

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## Fellow in mystery photo last month is Walt Strony!

### January at Phoenix College with Eric Fricke

Eric Fricke played for our 30 members last Sunday at Phoenix College. He began his program with *Dear Rosemary* and since the organ had some issues, he smoothly transferred to the grand piano on the stage and continued. At the request of members, he returned to the Wurlitzer and played other pieces including *Misty*, which he had first played on the piano. He played the fun tunes, *Kitten on the Keys* and *Goofus*, then went on to play some pieces from *Sound of Music*, including *How Can Love Survive* and *Edelweiss*, adding *Minute Waltz* to the medley. He did a fine job considering how stubborn the organ was. He quieted several ciphers by tapping on the keys.



Eric is one of our favorite artists. He is getting pretty tall and lean now, and looks so different in the year since we last saw him. He took his usual scenic route from the stage over the side to the organ platform, not using the stairs. He is leaving to go to college in Santa Fe, New Mexico, majoring in Liberal Arts. After the program we had a discussion about the progress being made on the Wurlitzer, and upcoming events. It was not a formal meeting.



## We wish you a Happy Birthday!

Birthday time! A slice of cake goes out to our February birthday cake eaters, Bill Irwin, Russell Diaz, Ken Yukl, Jack Fancher, Jim Hamra, George Rohrer, John Rich, Bruce Jacobson, Mary Jacobson and Phil Iversen. If we missed yours, let us know. So, blow out those candles and have a good time!

## The Stoprail

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The Valley of the Sun Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society is a recognized tax exempt educational and charitable organization under section 501-C-3 of the Internal Revenue Code and is a nonprofit corporation organized in the state of Arizona.



## Barbara Vandiver

Barbara and her husband Glen were active in VOTS in the 1980s. They spent many evenings working on the Wurlitzer during that time. Barbara passed away after a long battle with Alzheimers.

Tuesday, 5 Jan 2010

For those that may not have already heard, my loving wife Barbara, passed away peacefully, in her sleep, last night several minutes before midnight. The service was held on Friday January 15 at Meldrum Mortuary in Mesa, Arizona Thanks to all for your supportive emails phone calls and prayers over the last few years. Glenn

In lieu of flowers please make a contribution in Barbara's name to one of the following:

First United Methodist Church of Tempe  
215 E. University Drive Tempe, AZ 85281

HOSPICE OF THE SOUTHWEST  
450 N. Dobson Rd. Suite 108 Mesa, AZ 85201



## Ray Danford

William "Ray" Danford, 88, of Fort Wayne, passed away on Friday, Jan. 1, 2010. He was born April 15, 1921, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He was involved with the Embassy Theatre, particularly the Grande Page Pipe Organ. After retiring, he moved to Arizona with his wife, Ione and daughter, Carol. He continued his passion for theatre pipe organs and was a past president of the American Theatre Organ Society. Shortly after the passing of his beloved wife, Ione, he and his daughter Carol moved back to Fort Wayne.

He is survived by his daughter, Carol J. Danford of Fort Wayne; sons, William H. (Elvia) Danford of San Antonio, Texas and Thomas S. (Patti) Danford of Angola; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Memorials to Embassy Theatre Foundation, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46802 or the National Alliance on Mental Health, P.O. Box 759155, Baltimore, MD 21275. *Fort Wayne Newspapers on January 4, 2010*

*Ray was VOTS president for several years in the 1980s and worked on various organs in the valley.*

## Marketplace

### Rates

Have something to sell or buy? To place your ad, call Beverly Fizzell at 602-243-9546 or e-mail information to beverlyfz2@cox.net. She can also help you write your ad. Send by the 20th for next month's Stoprail.

Business Card	one year \$90.00	one month \$10.00
Member Card	one year \$70.00	one month \$6.00
Classified Ads	one issue \$10.00 or free to members	
Add a photo to your ad - \$5.00		

**Mary's Hammond Colonnade** - Perfect condition. Has the old time Hammond click option. Cherry wood. Has original books and technical information sheets. Needs to go by middle of February. Mary doesn't have room for it. \$450.00 or best offer. Call Mary at 480-288-4987

### Technics E44M Spinnet Organ

A little powerhouse! The Technics E44 is perfect for the beginner or intermediate player. Perfect condition. Wonderful full rich tone. Many voices and automatic play! Asking \$450.00 will deliver

### Hammond C3 Console ( same as B3, different cabinet)

This hard to find organ is THE instrument for jazz organist Fair condition, no Leslie cabinet. Priced to sell at \$600.00 or best offer.

**Thomas Trianon** This is the horseshoe "console" with three manuals that Bob Ralston played on The Lawrence Welk show. It is in fair condition-some stuck tabs and a lazy built in Leslie speaker. Own a piece of history ! Only \$400.00!

Contact member Bob Ryan at 602-448-5222 or Bob@get.net Thank you!

## Too many Organs! No room, must sell !

### Technics F3 Console Theatre Organ

A full console in excellent condition. Two 60 note manuals, 25 note radial bass pedals  
PCM voicing with authentic instrument reproduction.  
Beautiful tone and cabinet. Comes with separate record and playback disc unit. You have to hear it! Will deliver in Maricopa County Original list price approx. \$21000.00 asking \$1600.00 Serious offers will be considered.