

Valley
of the Sun
Chapter

STOP RAITL

Arizona Chapter of
The American Theatre Organ Society

Since 1976

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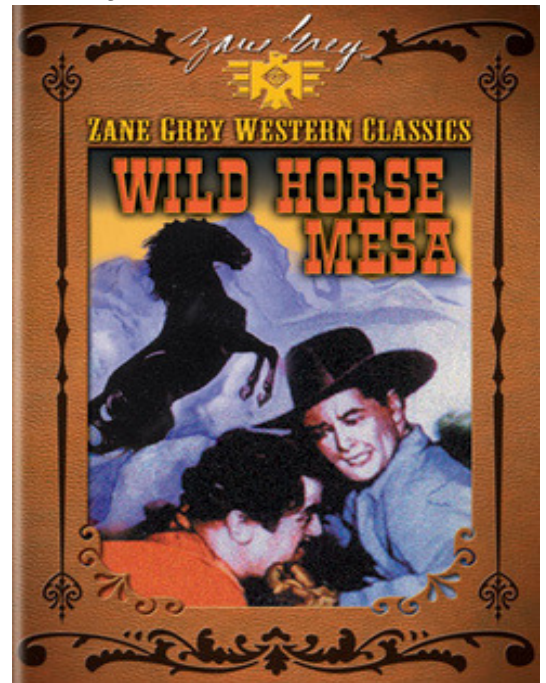


Let's Celebrate!

Our chapter is 35 years old this year. The Anniversary Party is February 13th at Phoenix College 1:00 pm We will have BarB-Q meat plus whatever you bring to the potluck. RSVP to Delores Sheak - 602-995-5415 or Cheri Carr - 602-764-2148. There will be a program of entertainment - Lots of memorabilia and memories. Old timers (is that us?) are encouraged to share stories, photographs etc. from our past. Dig through your stuff before then and help make this a memorable event. If you can help call Delores Sheak 602-995-5415, Cheri Carr 602-764-2148 or John Sheak 602-368-6236. They will need help with chairs, the buffet and the program. John Sheak is putting together a poster with photos and stories. If you have something to contribute, let him know. More on page three about the schedule of events.

Phoenix College is on the northeast corner of 15th Avenue and Thomas. Park in the lot on the corner near the buildings, and go straight east down the sidewalk between the Admissions building and the Hannelly/Cafeteria building. You will run right into the Bulpitt Auditorium.

Let's go to the show! February 26



At the Orpheum Theatre in Phoenix
A cowboy helps his sweetheart's father find where wild horses hide.



Tickets: General Admission \$17.00 at the door (discount with student identification card) and children under 12 are free. Additional fees will

apply for tickets purchased through Ticket master or the Phoenix Box Office. information: <http://www.vots-atos.org> <http://silentsaturdays.vots-atos.org>

ORPHEUM PARKING The Orpheum Theatre is at 203 West Adams, Phoenix. You can park in the garage directly east of the theatre. Garage entrance is on First Ave, south of Adams. Use a freeway exit near the west side of downtown, 7th Avenue is a good choice. You can take the light rail also to avoid paying for parking.

2011 Board Members

President: Position open

Vice President: Bill Carr

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VOTS Electronics Communication Person

John Bittner is doing a great job at this. He designed our nice website and maintains it. Check it out at <http://www.vots-atos.org>

First Christian Church

Oh boy - we are so glad we didn't have an artist scheduled to play this day. We had a great time with Ken Winland, Johnny Sharp and Tim Versluys!

All three guys hopped on the bench (individually) and played flawlessly for the afternoon. Each has their own great individual style of playing and all are great artists. We had open console following.

Thanks guys for saving the day!
A brief board meeting was held in the lobby following the music. Tom Fizzell and Pete Knobloch tuned the organ earlier that day.



Ken Winland



Tim Versluys



Johnny Sharp

Here is a Youtube clip of the meeting, filmed and sent in by Peter McBride. Thanks for doing this, Peter. Folks who didn't make the meeting can enjoy this short example of what these guys did.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mj_4KBSBq4M

The Stoprail

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Visit our website: <http://www.vots-atos.org>

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Send name, address & check to VOTS/ATOS PO Box 36151 Phoenix, Arizona 85067-6151

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.

2011 Calendar of Events

Some events are in the planning stage so the info may be incomplete

Saturday February 5 - 2:30 pm Board Meeting at Bill Carr's house

Sunday February 13 - 1:00 Anniversary party at Phoenix College

Saturday February 26 - 6:45 pm - Silent Film Wild Horse Mesa Orpheum

Saturday April 9 - 6:45 pm - Silent Film at Orpheum

Silent movies for the season

The evenings' programs begins at 6:45 with our MC, Don Hall, Cinema class instructor from Gateway Community College. A short program will be played by Ron Rhode on the Wurlitzer before the films.

More information: Hassell Moores 623-215-2953 hmoores@cox.net

February Board meeting

Saturday February 5, 2:30 pm at Bill Carr's home. Members are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information: Bill Carr 623-694-1746 or billcarr3.vots.atos@cox.net

Phx College Work Days

February 2-3-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12. For information call Bill Carr at 623-694-1746 billcarr3.vots.atos@cox.net

Alabama Theatre Wurlitzer on PIPEDREAMS #1103

Friends,

In the second hour of this coming week's PIPEDREAMS program (#1103, a collection of some recent CD releases that also includes two tracks from a disc by ATOS president Ken Double) we present five selections from the 2CD album recorded during the November 2009 ATOS Weekend at the Alabama Theatre.

<http://pipedreams.publicradio.org/listings/2011/1103/>

Audio for this program will go live to the website at noon on Monday (11/17), and will remain accessible there for the foreseeable future (indefinitely). Though not broadcast in Alabama, this PIPEDREAMS program will be aired by @145 stations nationwide during the week of January 17-23.

Back in 2009, I recorded some conversation with Larry Donaldson and Cecil Whitmire regarding the history of the Alabama Theatre and its Wurlitzer. On Monday, you will see an addition to the PIPEDREAMS program website that identifies these gentlemen and links to about 20 minutes of their commentary (which is not part of the broadcast).

I am sorry that I did not get around to featuring the Alabama Theatre before this, and that in the meantime Mr. Whitmire has died. I express my condolences to you, his colleagues, and offer this bit of media exposure as a belated memorial.

Sincerely, Michael Barone PIPEDREAMS host-producer

Letters to the editor

Your place for opinions, recognition, venting, complaints and compliments.

Send letters to beverlyfz2@cox.net or Beverly Fizzell 2201 East Siesta Drive Phoenix Arizona 85042

Nobody has an opinion or complaint?

Anniversary Party

More about the Anniversary party
At the meeting at FCC last month, Bill Carr let us in on some news about the Anniversary Party. He said there would be a slide presentation which will include old photos of members who were part of the work crews on the organ at Phoenix College in the 1970s and photos from meetings. Students and some faculty members will attend. There will be three or four surprises.

Program Person and a President

We haven't filled these spots for 2011. What will happen if we don't find somebody soon? Contact Bill Carr 623-694-1746 billcarr3.vots.atos@cox.net

Postcards advertising our Silent Films available

We have a great postcard available. If you know where you can distribute these postcards, let Pete Knobloch know. He has 2000 of them ready for our use. 480-820-7093.

John Bittner designed and had the cards printed for VOTS.

PostageStamp donation

A great big thank you goes out to Delores Sheak, Victor LaFave, Keith Miller, Lon Vanderveer and Tom Fizzell for sending books of postage stamps to help offset the cost of sending out the Stoprail by regular mail. Thanks everyone!





Jean Elizabeth Jennings - Organ Stop hostess

Jean Elizabeth Jennings, 91, died peacefully Dec. 15, 2010 in Payson. She was born Oct. 28, 1919 in Hayward, Wis. to Ruben and Inez Peterson.

She grew up walking across the bridge and through the woods to Peggy's house, running to the dairy with a friend where her uncle would give them a pail of cool buttermilk to drink before they took the real pail home, picking wild blueberries, idolizing her brother Sonny (a woodland guide), and watching her Grandpa Haselhuhn's store. She regretted not finishing high school, but did not regret staying home to care for her mother.

Mrs. Jennings dated a jazz drummer and wore her high school sweetheart's ring before a tall, handsome Navy man swept her off her feet. She married Lt. Cmdr.

Jarvis R. Jennings, Sr. Nov. 9, 1940 in Montgomery, Ala., during his weekend leave for Armistice, and had many adventures following his duty stations from coast to coast. She seemed fearless.

She learned to fly solo in Jarvis' Piper Cub. She went spelunking. She was a friend of the young and the old — from baking pans of rolls or lemon meringue pies she shared with neighbors, setting a blind friend's hair, to taking relatives and friends who did not drive on sunrise rides to see the poppies along the Superstition Mountains. Many who knew Mrs. Jennings slept under the quilts she lovingly stitched.

She made a home for two sons, Ramsay and Bruce, a Native American foster child and later adopted a granddaughter, Carol Jean. She was fiercely proud of all her children's successes. She was a Scout mom; delighted when her youngest son Bruce gained his Eagle Scout medal and later a Purple Heart as a Vietnam veteran.

As the hostess at Organ Stop Pizza for 22 years she was loved by many and watched the teenagers who worked behind the counter eventually own the restaurant. There were good times and practical jokes. A smile always lit up her face when Lew Williams played "Lost in a Fog."

Jean's role as everyone's caretaker was given over for the past 15 years to Bruce, as she gradually lost her vision.

The Organist of Corinth

Submitted to the Theatre Organ List by Dave Johnston

Organists, be warned.

And it came to pass, when Paul was at Corinth, he and certain disciples came upon a mob that was stoning an organist. And Paul said unto them "What then hath he done unto thee that his head should be bruised?"

And the people cried with one voice "He hath played too loud.

Yea, in the singing of psalms, he maketh our heads to ring as if they were beaten with hammers.

Behold, he sitteth up high in the loft, and mighty are the pipes and mighty is the noise thereof, and though there be few of us below, he nonetheless playeth with all the stops, the Assyrian trumpet stop and the stop of the ram's horn, and the stop that soundeth like the sawing of stone, and we cannot hear the words that cometh out of our mouth.

He always tosseth in variations that confuse us mightily and he playeth loud and discordant and always in a militant tempo so that we have no time to breathe as we sing.

Lo he is a plague upon the faith and should be chastised."

Paul, hearing this, had himself picked up a small stone, and was about to cast it, but he set it down, and bade the organist come forward. He was a narrow man, pale of complexion, dry, flaking, thin of hair.

And Paul said unto him "Why has thou so abused thy brethren?"

And the organist replied "I could not hear them singing from where I sat, and therefore played the louder to encourage them."

And Paul turned round to the mob and said loudly "Let him who has never played an organ cast the first stone." And they cast stones for a while until their arms were tired, and Paul bade the organist repent and he did. And Paul said unto him, "Thou shalt take up the flute and play it for thirty days to cleanse thy spirit", and afterwards they returned to Corinth and sang psalms unaccompanied, and then had coffee and were refreshed in the faith.

Happy New Year - David

Marketplace

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.

Rates

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		

RECOGNIZE THIS YOUNG FELLOW?



Lyn Larsen at the Wiltern Theatre, Los Angeles

Advertise your business here.

Ralph Harold Ringstad Jr.

Ralph, 49, passed away on Friday, Dec. 24, 2010. He was born in Passaic, N.J., and lived in Clifton, N.J., for six years before moving to Whippany, N.J., in 1967. Ralph began his formal musical training at the age of seven. By age 17, he was performing regularly on the 3/17 Wurlitzer at the Suburban Restaurant in Wanaque, N.J. Ralph was certainly no stranger to the New York Military Academy Mighty Moller, having played his professional theatre organ concert debut at the Academy 30 years ago this spring. He also concertized at many major theatre organ venues throughout the country, including the Senate Theatre in Detroit, Long Island University, (Brooklyn Paramount), the Trenton War Memorial, the Middletown Paramount, Chaminade High School, the Thomaston Opera House in Connecticut, the Rochester Auditorium Theatre, and the Loew's Jersey Theatre, where he has served as house organist, among other venues. A multi-talented musician, Ralph's formal training includes not only classical and theatre organ, but also piano, cello, French horn and tuba. He served as organist and music director for churches in New Jersey and in Florida, and was currently organist and music director at Advent Lutheran Church in Warren, N.J. Ralph was featured several years ago at the Allen Digital theatre organ as accompanist for the Off-Broadway production of Silent Laughter, and he also released a popular theatre organ CD, One of a Kind, recorded at the Trenton Wall Memorial Moller organ. Published in Star-Ledger on December 28, 2010

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, Carlynn Marshall, Jim Hamra, George Rohrer, John Rich, Bruce Jacobson and Phil Iversen. Blow out those candles and have a good time! If we missed your birthday, let us know.

*We want to wish you a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** when your special day comes. Let us know the month and day, and we will be happy to put it in the Stoprail.*

We can put your business card on this page for a whole year for \$70.00

