

THE STOP RAIL

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Valley of the Sun Chapter of
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American Theatre Organ
Society*

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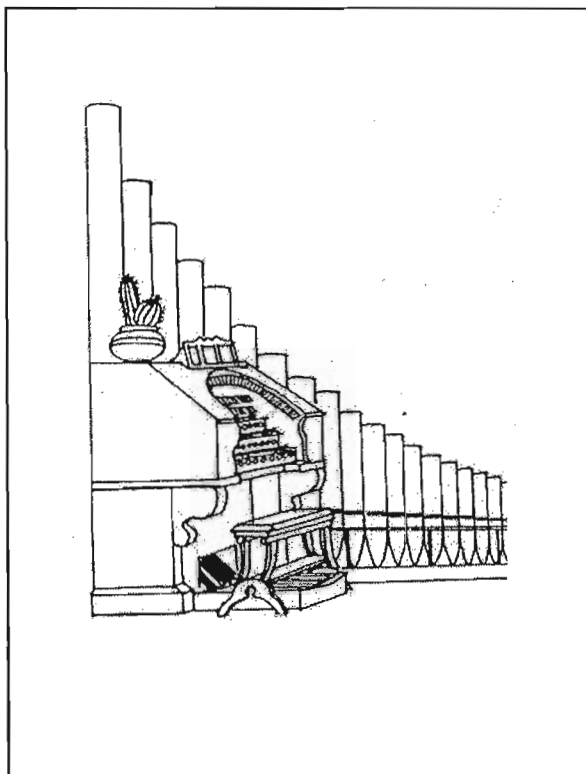
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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

WE HAD A GREAT MEETING IN JUNE. IT IS ALWAYS GREAT TO HEAR OUR WURLITZER AT THE ORPHEUM. LEW DID A FINE JOB ENTERTAINING US. WE APPRECIATE HAVING SUCH WONDERFUL TALENT RIGHT HERE IN THE VALLEY. AS SUMMER CONTINUES WE ARE PLANNING A GREAT SERIES OF FALL PROGRAMS. WATCH THIS NEWSLETTER FOR SOME EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS. WORK CONTINUES ON THE PHOENIX COLLEGE ORGAN. IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO GET INTO THE AUDITORIUM DUE TO NO AIR CONDITIONING ON WEEK ENDS DURING THE SUMMER. HOWEVER WORK WILL GO ON IN OUR MEMBERS HOMES WHERE IT IS COOL. WE WILL HAVE SEVERAL LEATHERING PARTIES PLANNED IN JULY. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING, PLEASE CALL ME AT (623) 694-1746 AND I WILL ADD YOU TO OUR EMAIL & PHONE NOTIFICATION LIST. THERE IS ALSO A WORK DAY



PLANNED FOR THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH WURLITZER THE DAY BEFORE OUR MEETING THERE IN JULY. SO STAY COOL BY ATTENDING OUR OLD FASHION ICE CREAM SOCIAL & MEETING IN JULY. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT OUR NEXT MEETING. BILL

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 9, 2006 - 1:00 P.M.

**General Membership Meeting and
Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social
First Christian Church-Phoenix
Artist to be a Announced
(location on the last page)**

**ROB RICHARDS AND RALPH WOLFE IN
CONCERT ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14,
2006!!!! This is going to be a very special
evening, and it is all in Paradise Valley! I**

know, I know, it is a Saturday night! But, all the fun will begin at 7:00 p.m. Map, driving instructions, and parking instructions will be in next month's Stop Rail issue. Adrian's organ is four times the size of Bill Brown's instrument. It is truly magnificent!!!

Rob Richards won the special award from the Liberace Foundation for the Performing Arts and appeared with Liberace at Phoenix's symphony Hall in 1979. In 1977 he was invited to Phoenix to understudy Lyn Larsen at the Organ Stop Restaurant. He is House Organist at Disney's historic El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood playing the legendary Wurlitzer pipe organ originally installed in the San Francisco Fox Theatre.

Ralph Wolf has performed across the United States and Canada, made musical shorts for Universal, and recorded for the MGM label and Standard Transcription Library. Ralph has collaborated with many fabulous performers including Margaret Whiting, Mel Torme, Helen O'Connell, Connie Haines, Terri Moore, and Marilyn Maxwell. He was the rehearsal pianist for the original Mickey Mouse Club!

Adrian Phillips and his son, Adrian Phillips, are the co-owners of the Midmer-Losh Symphonic Organ. This tremendous instrument has been a five year project and not yet finished. It is located in the Music Room Facility which is attached to Adrian's Phillip's home. The evening has been set aside for basically the members of our Chapter and our friends. There will be approximately 90 seats available which will be available on a first come, first serve basis. All sales are final. No refunds. Yes, there will be a ticket price to attend the event--\$25.00 per person. Our Chapter is backing the costs for the artists and other concert related costs. If you have not heard these two in concert, you will miss the best, single event of the year. They are SHOW STOPPERS.

To order tickets, send a check payable to VOTS to Dale E. Caplin, 2333 W. Irvington Place #26, Tucson, Arizona 85746. Please

use the order form on the last page.

LYN LARSEN UPDATE. I just wanted to post a quick update, because I have received so many very nice wishes and notes from many of you. I had my first epidural injection on Wednesday (2 days ago), and it has started to lessen the pain going across my shoulder blade and down my arm. The 2 outer fingers on my right hand are still quite tingly feeling and half-numb, but the Docs assure me not to be impatient, as I have 2 more treatments to go yet. I've also received a very large number of recommendations to include some traction therapy (kind of like the medieval "Rack") along with the neck injections, and I intend to do that. Lyn Larsen

VI DICKINSON. Tuesday, May 30, 2006.
Dear Ms. LiVolsi: I am Viola Dickinson's nephew, Don Dickinson. I regret having to advise you that Viola passed away. Her mail is being forwarded to my address. Thank you, Don Dickinson

OPEN HOUSE AT THE RON'S THIS PAST JUNE 4, 2006. It was a rather hot and informal day in Phoenix, but I am sure that everyone enjoyed a wonderful farewell party at the Rons! There was great food and some really good organ music as well as a 18 year old soloist who was exceptionally talented. His singing was tremendous. We even got to hear Ron Rhode play the piano! Their pipe organ has been sold and will be transported back East during June. The Rons already have the new house purchased, and they will be moving into it some time in the near future. They have a lot of rearranging and down sizing to do since the new house is one story and is smaller than the one that they now have. It was rewarding to see so many of our members at this farewell party. Dale Caplin, Editor

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VOTS MARKETPLACE

2 Hammond Colonnades 2 manuals, 25 pedals one walnut and one white. \$1,300.00 each,, an Eminent classical organ with two 56 note keyboards and 13 pedals: \$600.00, an Allen 282C 2 manual 32 pedal classical in Walnut with 2 external speakers: \$2,000.00, and an Allen 2 manual theatre organ in light Walnut with a princess 32 note pedalboard: \$600.00 OBO, a Rodgers Trio with two cabinets which needs a little attention—make offer, and a Hammond Elegante in excellent condition for \$1,400.00. Dale Caplin 520-370-7091 (leave message) or the house at 520-908-0942 (no message service).

Allen R-211 Theatre Organ. Mint condition. \$15,500.00. Walnut finish with two HR-100 external speakers. Arizona or Southern California delivery can be arranged for just actual delivery cost. Call Don Story at 520-792-4523 or cell 520-349-3774.

SILENT SUNDAY 2006-2007 FILMS

9/27/06 *Feel My Pulse* - comedy. 1928. Bebe Daniels. Bebe is a over the hedge hypochondriac who believes she is going crazy. She checks herself into a sanitarium she recently inherited. After being there a few days she realizes that the hospital is really being used as a front for a bootlegging operation.

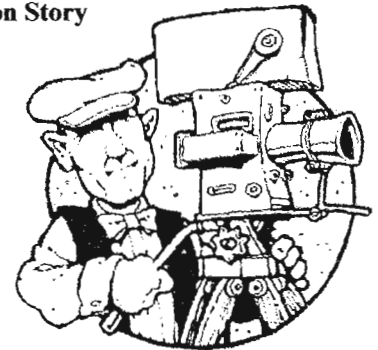
10/15/06 *Beggars of Life* - drama. 1928. Richard Arlen, Wallace Beery, Louise Brooks. A young girl is attacked by her villainous foster-father and she kills him. Believing she will not be believed she flees. She soon meets a drifter Richard Arlen and they team up. They decide to make their way to Canada. They soon run into a gang of hobos led by Wallace Beery. Beery decides he wants Louise for his own or to turn her in for a reward. The pair are pursued by the cops and the hoboes. Beery has a change of heart towards the end and decides to help the young

couple and leads the cops astray getting himself killed in the process. This was filmed on the San Diego and Eastern AZ railroad in the mountains east of San Diego in the remote Carrizzo Gorge area. Its a rare film only recently made available. Should be a good draw for all the railroad clubs in the valley. Wallace Beery does a terrific job as the hobo boss. Arlen was one of the male leads in *Wings* and also has a good role.

1/7/07 *Wild and Woolly* - 1917. Stars Douglas Fairbanks. Great comedy. Business tycoon sends his goofy son out west to check on business. The son is a big Old West buff and believes things are still wild and woolly like the old days. Pop's business subordinates decide to stage a Indian attack and other silliness to impress junior. The bad guys decide to take advantage of the situation to pull off a real robbery. But Fairbanks the dude manages to save the town.

4/29/07 *Nevada* - 1927. Stars Gary Cooper in possibly his first major role, and William Powell as the villain. Powell went on to fame as the suave detective in the *Thin Man* series. Cooper plays "Nevada" who is a gambler with a dubious rep. He wins a cattle ranch in a poker game. He decides to team up with some other ranchers and herd their cattle east to a better market. They are beset by the bad guys of course. The ranchers don't trust Nevada because of his dubious reputation so he winds up having to subdue the rustlers, rescuing the heroine, etc by himself.

There you have it folks! Action, comedy, romance, fires, explosions, murders, history. What more could you ask? Don Story



THINK SILENT SUNDAYS!!!

MEDICAL. Two patients limp into two different medical clinics with the same complaint. Both have trouble walking and appear to require a hip replacement. The first patient comes in to the office the next day after making the call and is examined within the hour, is x-rayed the same day and is booked for surgery two days later. The second sees the doctor after waiting four weeks for an appointment, then waits another four weeks to see a specialist, then gets an x-ray, which isn't reviewed for another ten days, and finally has surgery scheduled for six weeks later. Why the different treatment for the two patients? The answer is elsewhere in this issue, but you will have to search for it!

Another great chuckle! Mildred, the church gossip, and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve of her extra curricular activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence. She made a mistake, however, when she accused George, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon. She emphatically told George and several others that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing. George, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny. He said nothing. Later that evening, George quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house...walked home...and left it there all night. You gotta love George! Submitted by Don Story

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ATOS Convention Report. At the ATOS convention in Florida, it wasn't the heat – it was the HUMIDITY! All week long I felt like the Wicked Witch of the West – “I'm melting, mel-ting.....” – and at times, was an asthmatic gasping for breath. Except for the climate, though, and some miscommunications regarding special needs assistance, I had a good time. Even long bus trips (the Tampa Theatre was the only nearby venue) weren't so bad with long-time friends to talk to along for the ride.

Convention registration was 410, with 260 attending the afterglow. A list of those registered was provided in our packet – nice touch! About 20% of the registrants were from Florida. Especially visible and helpful during the week were convention staff members John Fischer, Cliff Shaffer, Vince Mirandi and Jim Weisenborne. The Arizona contingent consisted of twelve, which included two convention organists.

I did not attend the pre-glow activities on Tuesday, or any of the seminars during the week. You'll just have to ask somebody else!

Local Chapter dues are \$20.00 per year. Name badges are \$8.00 each. Classified ads are free for members. The non-member rate is a flat \$10.00 per issue. Mail copy with check (if needed) to Dale E. CAPLIN, Editor, 2333 W. Irvington Place #26, Tucson, Arizona 85746. Publication deadline is the 15th of each previous month.

Picking up registration materials Thursday morning, we had pretty much the whole day to ourselves. Most of mine was spent visiting with seldom-seen friends in the beautiful lobby of the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel, or buying new CDs in the ATOS store.

Thursday night, Walt Strony opened the convention with his concert at the Tampa Theatre. He had been sick in bed the past few days, and wished he could have played in his pajamas! A "former friend" had told him that afternoon, "Why not? You've already worn curtains!" After a moment of silence for Tom Hazleton, Ashley Miller and Bill Brown, Walt said, "Each one of these people would have wanted us to have a good time, so now the fun begins!" Some of his selections pertained to these three men. Pajamas or not, this was one of the best programs I've heard Walt play at a convention.

The one-hour bus ride Friday morning was the start of a long, but enjoyable day in Sarasota. Lew Williams was first at the helm of the 4/32 Wurlitzer at Grace Baptist Church. Lew played several familiar standards, but these always sound better in a concert setting. Because of the climate, he played some numbers that were "slow and humid" and "naturally moist," like "All That Jazz" and Duke Ellington's "The Mooch." Said Lew, "Speaking of sultry showgirls, we have in our midst Rosa Rio" – and he played her composition, "Dreaming." At all of the concerts that day, a close-up camera shot was projected on an overhead screen so that we could watch the organist's hands.

Following a box lunch provided at the church, we heard last year's Young Theatre Organist Competition winner, David Gray. David's playing and rapport with the audience has matured a lot over the past year. Highlights of his program included a novelty tune, "Twinkle Toes"; selections from "Band Wagon"; "Jig Fugue" (J.S. Bach's version of "Twinkle Toes") and some Sidney Torch arrangements.

Following the 2006 regional convention promotion, we heard this year's intermediate

division winner, from Ohio, Donnie Rankin. His was a short program, but included some show tunes and the "Little Fugue in G Minor." We then heard the 2007 annual convention promotion – start saving lots of money NOW!

Richard Hills won the young organist competition in 1995 at the age of fourteen. Following David and Donnie at the console, he said, "You know, I feel so old!" His concert had a wide variety of music, including some Sigmund Romberg, Sidney Torch, Jerome Kern, and some Hit Parade songs of 1927. Following up on something Lew Williams had said earlier in the day, he stated, "Until today, I've never heard the term 'naturally moist.' Maybe this is just 'dripping' with tibia and vox goo." Then he played "Body and Soul."

We enjoyed a delicious sit-down dinner at nearby Michael's On East, and then returned to Grace Baptist for the final concert of the day. The artist was Jelani Eddington, who was young organist competition winner nearly 20 years ago! Several of his selections that evening are featured on his most recent recordings. Especially enjoyed were numbers by Leroy Anderson, and a medley from "The King and I." Jelani's program also featured a few selections from the Florida Brass Quintet. We returned to the hotel in Tampa after 11:00 PM.

Fortunately, Saturday was not an early day. The conventioners were assigned to one of two groups. Group A left at noon to hear Donna Parker at the Kirk of Dunedin. Group B (my group) left about 10:00 AM and headed about forty miles south to the Roaring 20's Pizza and Pipes in Ellenton. There we enjoyed a tasty pizza lunch. The original plan was for two individual programs on the 4/42 Wurlitzer, featuring staff organists Dwight Thomas and Bill Vlasak. Dwight, however, has been suffering from pain in his right arm and fingers, and did not play. Since this organ was originally installed in the Oakland Paramount Theatre in 1931, Bill Vlasak played a program of songs that were popular in that era. While at the pizza parlor, I got to see old friend John Ferguson, who has coached several of the young organist

competition winners over the years.

Saturday night, we were at the Polk Theatre in Lakeland. Clark Wilson played a few numbers on the 3/11 Robert Morton, then accompanied the 1928 Buster Keaton silent film, "The Cameraman." Clark is a master at silent film accompaniment, and the film was fun.

Sunday was a full day at the Tampa Theatre, which began with the ATOS annual general meeting. Current and new board members were introduced, and Bob Davidson was announced as the new national president. Current national membership is 4,183. A plea was made for convention locations after 2008, young organist competition participants, and copies of chapter newsletters to be sent to national for the archives.

While we know him as an international theatre organist, Russell Holmes is currently the pianist aboard the luxury liner, Queen Mary 2. His program on the 3/14 Wurlitzer included a Gershwin medley as a tribute to the late Tom Hazleton, "the self proclaimed Sultan of Sleaze."

That afternoon, the console, decorated with red and yellow rose floral arrangements, came out of the pit with theatre organ living legend Rosa Rio playing her theme, "Everything's Coming Up Rosa." The Gloria Swanson-Rudolph Valentino film, "Beyond the Rocks", was open to the public, and Rosa has quite a following in Tampa. A very gracious lady, when asked about her age, answered, "That's only a number, honey, and mine's unlisted!"

The organist at the Tampa Theatre that evening was Phoenix's own silent movie accompanist, Ron Rhode. Emcee Ken Double and Ron both had humorous quips about Ron's age, relative to the other organists at the convention! Ron played a varied program, several of his numbers coming from the 20's and 30's, but some as recent as the 1950's. His encore was a special request from Pete McCluer of northern California, one

which made me happy.

Monday afternoon found Group B at the Kirk of Dunedin to hear Donna Parker at the 4/100 hybrid organ, designed and assembled by curator Terry Charles. Donna had been practicing several of her convention pieces while filling in for Lew Williams at Organ Stop just prior to the convention, so there were not too many surprises for me that day. Everyone seemed to enjoy the selections from "Jesus Christ, Superstar." Donna played some Richard Purvis compositions, and also performed organ-piano duos with Jelani Eddington on "The Monkey Doodle-Do" and "Piano Roll Blues."

Monday evening found us under the dome-shaped ceiling of the Fletcher lounge ballroom in Plant Hall, part of the University of Tampa. This minaret-topped building opened as the Tampa Bay Hotel in 1891. The annual awards presentation followed a delicious banquet dinner, with background music provided by Karl Cole at the Allen digital organ. This year's ATOS Honorary member is Terry Charles, Tim Needler was chosen for the Hall of Fame, and Organist of the Year is Dwight Thomas.

Tuesday's nearly four-hour bus ride to Boca Raton and Miami was probably the longest I've experienced since 1978! Fortunately, there were good friends to visit with, and a box brunch was served on the bus. The first two buses arrived at the Milhous Museum with ample time for us to listen to various orchestrians and organs, and even ride the carousel! The remaining buses were delayed, and Dave Wickerham's concert started shortly after they arrived. Dave performed the first part of his program on the 4/80 Walker. The second portion was played on the 3/29 Wurlitzer, which was originally installed in the Rudolph Wurlitzer mansion in 1924.

Following a boxed dinner on the bus, we continued on to the Olympia Theatre in Miami. The 3/15 Wurlitzer is installed in two stacked chambers stage right of the proscenium, with the console in an opera box stage left. This concert had originally been scheduled for Tom Hazleton to play. Jonas

Nordwall followed "the Hazleton tradition of playing things you wouldn't hear in church," which included some Fats Waller, Scott Joplin and George Gershwin. Jonas also teamed up with Donna Parker to play a couple of their Trio Con Brio pieces (originally done with Hazleton). A weary group of musically sated conventioners arrived back at the Marriott late that night. With many on their way home the next day, the hotel sure seemed empty on Wednesday! The Florida folks provided us with a really good time. But, ya know, it felt kinda good to come home to 108 degrees and 12% humidity!
Madeline LiVolsi

Wanamaker Organ. I was a guest of the organ builder to the opening concert at the Kimmel Center (our New Orchestral Hall) opening night with the new Pipe Organ and the Philadelphia Orchestra. It was a magnificent evening. Our seats were immediately behind the Orchestra (facing the audience) and in front of the newly installed organ. It has been a busy time this past month. Wally McLean

First Christian Church is located on 7th Avenue in Phoenix on the west side of the street between Bethany Home Road and Glendale Avenue.

Dear Dale: Lord & Taylor store in Philadelphia housing the Wanamaker Organ is fully vacated and closed and will reopen in August as a Macy's. The organ is there all by itself in the building and we organ volunteers and organ employees are permitted in the building to continue with the new also to start with the rebuilding and restoration of the orchestral Division. We organ people are very pleased with the management team of Macy's that will be over the Macy's store when it opens. They are such an enthusiastic group who will run Macy's. They are full of ideas about the store, the Eagle and the

PHOENIX COLLEGE PROJECT. Our chapter is currently in the process of making the Phoenix College organ playable again after a long silent. Any financial support towards that goal would be greatly appreciated. Many of our chapter members have spent countless hours working on this project. When the instrument is completed, it will be another one to visit and listen to within the Valley.

----- (Detach here and mail) -----

Order form *Midmer-Losh Symphonic Organ* concert with
Rob Richards and Ralph Wolf in Concert, on Saturday, October 14, 2006 at Seven O'clock in the Evening at 8901 N. 47th Place, Phoenix, Arizona

I would like to attend this concert. Please send me _____ tickets at \$25.00 each for this event.

I am donating an additional \$ _____ to be used toward the Chapter's Phoenix College Organ Project. See article in the Stop Rail.

Name _____

Address _____ State _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Payment Method: Circle One: (Check Payable to VOTS) Credit Card

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

We accept Visa, Mastercard, and Discover only. No American Express

Mail to: Dale E. Caplin, 2333 W. Irvington Place #26, Tucson, Arizona 85746

ALL TICKET SALES ARE FINAL. NO REFUNDS.

Page 8

(This page added after the final printing)

ERRORS!

After I got this issue back from the printer, I noticed a couple of errors. That was after two people proofed the master copy. The obvious error was "Adrian's Phillip's. Oops!

The Guest Organist at this month's meeting at First Christian Church will be

Ken Winland

(See front page for date and time)

See you there!!