

THE STOP RAIL

VALLEY OF THE SUN CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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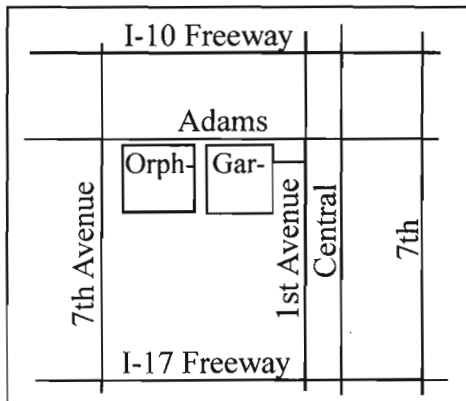
BACK TO THE ORPHEUM AGAIN

THIS TIME WITH DON STORY! June 8th at 2:30 pm



Mr. Obscurity is his reputation, as he enjoys stumping us with oldies we never heard before. Don, a long time member from Tucson, has served on the board as President and also member at large, and has been a great asset to our VOTS. He has written many articles about various theatres and their organs around the state, which have been in the Stoprail in past years. Don is right at home on both electronic and pipe organs. It is always a treat when he plays for us. Bring your friends!

North



ORPHEUM PARKING The Orpheum Theatre is at 203 West Adams in downtown Phoenix. You will find parking in the garage directly East of the theatre. The entrance to the garage is off First Avenue South of Adams Street. It's best to use a freeway exit near the West side of downtown, 7th Avenue is a good choice. Or you can find a parking space on the street near the Orpheum. See you there!

DESERT WINDS UPDATE

- President Bill Carr announced at the May meeting that the e-mailing list for Desert Winds has over 30 names on it so far. The website, with artists, venues, hotel and registration information will be ready Soon.
- To find the website go to www.theatreorgans.com/az/phoenix/ and click on Coming Attractions.

PHOENIX COLLEGE WORK Join us for a work day at Phoenix College. For work dates in June, contact Bill Carr at 623-694-1746.

MAY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Frickes will be leaving at the end of May for Pennsylvania. Nancy Fricke, Vice President and Program Chairwoman, received a standing ovation for all of her efforts as program chairman.

Through the efforts of the Friends of the Orpheum, the theatre has purchased a new movie screen. It is a single side screen, upon which films will show much brighter. We will be able to use it for our programs at no charge. Previously, we were renting a screen.

A decision has been made to allow non-profit groups, and city-sponsored functions to have use of the organ at no charge. The community is helping us, so we are giving back to the community.

We need more people involved in the on-going work at Phoenix College so that we can finish that organ project in a timely manner.

Membership chairman Ed Benoit reported that he has new membership forms available. Madeline LiVolsi encouraged friends of the chapter to become national ATOS members. Bill talked about the survey in the Theatre Organ Journal and reminded national members to mail it to National ATOS.

**2008 ELECTED OFFICERS
AND BOARD MEMBERS**

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ORPHEUM ALWAYS A HIT

Chapter Meeting At the Orpheum - Madeline LiVolsi

While downtown Phoenix temperatures reached triple digits, we stayed cool in the comfort of the Orpheum Theatre. The business meeting was kept short so that we could enjoy the afternoon's entertainment. Bill Carr reminded us that the Frickes will be leaving for Pennsylvania soon, with Eric off to school in North Carolina in the fall. Nancy Fricke received a standing ovation for all of her efforts as program chairman. Even though the Frickes will not be here, Nancy has programs scheduled through the end of the year.

Our featured artist for the afternoon was Ed Benoit. Said Bill, "Ed thinks he plays pizza music, but I think he plays fun music." Who else would follow "That's Amore" with the original Budweiser theme, "King of Beers March"? Have a tall glass of Budweiser with that pizza pie! Most of Ed's program did have a pizza parlor feel to it, but that's what made it fun! Ed's tune list included themes from "Superman" and "Dr. Zhivago", armed services songs, and "Tiny Bubbles." We also heard "My Guy," "Alley Cat," and "YMCA", among others. He closed the show with "Show Me the Way to Go Home."

Chapter members Johnny Sharp, Mark Crenshaw and Eric Fricke participated in open console.

Welcome to all of our new members. Please introduce yourselves at our meetings so that we can get to know you better. Long-time members, when you see a new face, start a conversation and welcome that person to our group.

See page three for note from Johnny Sharp.

Happy Birthday!

Birthday time! A slice of cake goes out to our March birthday cake eaters, Joyce Ehlers, Jack Fancher, Timothy Kreifels, June Levy, Bill McFadden, John Baker, Madeline LiVolsi, Jelani Eddington and Lew Williams. If we missed yours, let us know. Soooooo, blow out those candles and have a blowout of a good time. Remember, this will be the only birthday you will have this year so make it count!

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2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday June 8-2:30 pm Orpheum - Don Story to play
Sunday July 13-1:00 pm Organ Stop Pizza - buffet and music
Sunday August 10-2:30 pm Orpheum - Matthew Basson from UK
Sunday September 21-2:30 pm Phoenix College to be announced
Sunday October 5-2:30 pm Orpehum Theater - Ken Winland to play
Friday through Sunday November 28-30 Desert Winds

For more information : Nancy Fricke 480-607-2970 Nancyfricke@aol.com

ANOTHER ARIZONA THEATRE IS BACK TO LIFE - Don Story

From information posted on the Cinema Treasures internet site another old AZ theatre has been restored and put back to use. The Grand theatre in Clarkdale, AZ has been taken over by a local live theatre group and has reopened as the Verde Valley theatre. You can find more details and a few historic photos on the net at www.verdevalleytheatre.com. The theatre is located at 919 Main St., Clarkdale. It was built in 1917 and had a seating capacity of 250. It had no organ apparently. In 1936 it was remodeled by the famous LA architect S. Charles Lee. The floor above the theatre contained the local branch of the Elks Club. It is believed that the theatre ceased movie activities in the early 1970's. It was used as a church for a while after that and possibly a u-store it operation after that. S. Charles Lee was the architect for the Phoenix Fox, the beautiful Los Angeles theatre in LA and many Fox owned theatres built in the late 20's to early 40's in the west coast area. To see the historic photos you need to do the following: Once you are on the home page scroll all the way to the bottom of the page. It makes reference to '**VV moves to new building.**' Under that is a "**read more**" button. Click that and scroll again to the bottom of the article and the historic photos are imbedded in that article, an exterior shot with a lot of people, and two interior shots. *Don Story*

KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE ROYAL THEATRE IN MORENCI?

While browsing on Cinema Treasures recently I came across a link to a Royal theatre in Morenci which I had never heard of before. It is a photo link to Webshots.com and turned out to have a treasure of old historic Morenci photos. After a little more browsing of the old Morenci photos the mystery of what a YMCA in an old remote mining town was doing with a theatre organ became apparent. When I enlarged one of the YMCA photos considerably, the detail in the shaded part of the picture appeared, and so did the Royal Theatre. It was part of the YMCA building which was quite a stunning building considering its location and time it was built. It turns out that the Royal Theatre that the theatre site linked to was apparently the second Royal Theatre building, and was built in the late 40s or early 50s. The YMCA and all the great historic buildings in that area were demolished in maybe the early 60s or late 50s when the mine pit was expanded. In your various contacts with pipe organ people around the state over the years have you ever run into anyone who may have removed the Link organ or worked on it? I figure it eventually wound up in a church around the Morenci or Safford area, or Phoenix area. An inquiring, possibly deteriorating mind in Tucson would like to know. *Don Story.*

NOTE FROM KRIS DINNSEN

Dear Mr. Benoit,
 It was a pleasure hearing you play Sunday, always brings back memories since the first time I actually heard anyone play live it was you at the Organ Grinder in Denver. Could you please update my VOTS / ATOS membership information with the following changes to my contact information. Feel free to post this information in any club listings. Thanks for your help.

New Address:

Kris Alan Dinnsen
 915 N. 52nd St. Apt. 1018
 Phoenix, AZ 85008 Phone: (602) 273-9264 e-mail:
azkrisad@aol.com

NEW NUMBERS FOR JOHNNY SHARP

Here is updated information on Johnny Sharp. He's quite a musician and rocked the house Sunday. Mr. Ed.

FROM JOHNNY:

Great program Ed, last Sunday. Thanks for the opportunity, once again. I do look forward to "jammin'" with you! We could do a 4 hand version of "YMCA"..that'll get 'em! I was told some folks lost track of me..here's some new info... new home phone: 623-466-8368 cell is same: 623-377-5961

e-mail (2 addresses)

johnnysharp88@yahoo.com
ROLLERrewind@yahoo.com

and finally 2 web pages:

www.myspace.com/johnnysharplive

www.myspace.com/johnnysharpROLLERrewind

Any other info needed, drop an e-mail. Thanx Js


VOTS MARKETPLACE

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(Deadline is the 20th of next month)

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THEATRE ORGANIST IVYLE ZANDER TURNED 100 LAST MONTH

In 1908 Teddy Roosevelt was President, the Ford Model T rolled off the assembly line and Ivyle was born.

We had a piano and my parents insisted that I take lessons.” What Ivyle really wanted to be was a theater organist and at age 20, she went to theater organ school. “Theater organist in 1929; what a career choice!” laughed Ivyle. “That’s when talking movies came out!” Nevertheless Ivyle got a job as theater organist in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. “The picture was screened for you so you would know when there were breaks or when to change the music. You had one line of music in front of you, proper music for the film and it also contained the cues: door opens, hero enters and so forth.” Much later in life, Ivyle would be invited to play the Castro Movie Theatre organ.

The first movie the organist accompanied was a Clara Bow film. Ivyle played at three big theaters, filling in during the organist breaks. She took the ‘Red Car’ to Los Angeles to get a job. She took a job teaching organ on a piano at Paramount Theater Organ Studio downtown Los Angeles where actor Edward Everett Horton was working (Horton was later known as the narrator for “Rocky and Bullwinkle Fractured Fairy Tales.”) The theater was a letter drop for Jimmy Lederer who worked for the Santa Fe Railroad. Ivyle and Jimmy married in 1931. After they married, Ivyle and Jimmy became small movie theater owner/operators.

“We started out running a small movie theater in New Orleans. We sold that when a theater in Bastrop, Texas (near Austin) was up for sale and needed sound equipment which we had.” Ivyle and Jimmy enjoyed running the movie theater. “We had ‘Bank Nights’ (drawing for cash prizes) and ‘Show Nights’ (first runs) and we ran all the cinema newsreels: “Ripley’s Believe It Or Not” and “Pioneer Days.” Ivyle’s husband would start making newsreels back then and sell the footage to Paramount at \$5 a foot. He would go on to become an award-winning Universal Newsreel cameraman. Lyndon Johnson was just traveling up the political ranks at the time and Jimmy captured Johnson on newsreel. “We were in Washington D.C. when Lyndon Johnson was Vice President,” said Ivyle. “I went up to Johnson and said: ‘Hey, pardon me but do you remember your old friend from Texas, Jimmy Lederer?’ And Johnson said: “Jimmy Lederer! Where is that old booger?”