

# STOPRATI

Arizona Chapter of  
The American Theatre Organ Society

Since 1976  
Volume Thirty Five ♦ Issue Three ♦ March ♦ Two Thousand Ten

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## Organ Stop in March 14th

Save the date - March 14th for a great luncheon and music at Organ Stop Pizza. A great time this will be once again. Lew Williams will be entertaining us on the grand Wurlitzer. The saucer bells are playing now and they are a great addition to the other bell sounds. Doors open at 1:15. Pizza and salad buffet is \$9.00, beverages and ice cream are extra. Bring your guests to this spring meeting. Restaurant is west of the Walgreens on the southwest corner of Stapley and Southern in Mesa. RSVP to Hassell Moores at 623-215-2953 or hmoores@cox.net. See you there!



**Important note from Hassell: For our Organ Stop Meeting, we have a requirement to provide an advance head count to Organ Stop personnel. NO LATER THAN 3 MARCH 2010, PLEASE CONTACT HASSELL MOORES 623-694-7538 TO PLACE YOUR RESERVATION.**

According to the info I received from Pat Rowan at Organ Stop, we must have a guaranteed minimum of 50 people [we will have to pay for this number] for our meeting. This is why I want to stress the reservation info I provided. I have to contact Organ Stop personnel on 4 March 2010 with an initial head count. When we get a change [i.e., 10 additional people or more,) I have to provide Organ Stop with an updated head count.

## Silent Film - Ella Cinders - in March

**Saturday March 20th, 6:45 pm.** As the stepdaughter of Myrtle "Ma" Cinders, Ella did the household chores while being tormented by her stepsisters, Prissie Pill and Lotta Pill. However, Ella found support from her kid brother Blackie and her boyfriend, Waite Lifter. After winning a beauty contest, she headed for Hollywood where she and Blackie had various misadventures, with Ella eventually landing a husband, Patches.



Ella Cinders was also a syndicated comic strip created by writer Bill Conselman and artist Charles Plumb. Distributed by United Feature Syndicate, the daily version was launched June 1, 1925, and a Sunday page followed two years later. It was discontinued in 1961. More on page 4.

Tickets: General Admission \$15.00, children under 12 are free. Bring your friends for a great evening of entertainment.

For more information check our website:  
<http://silentsaturdays.vots-atos.org>

## 2010 Board Members

**President: Bill Carr**  
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**Member at Large: Warren Bechhoefer**  
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602-279-0386

## 2009 Appointees:

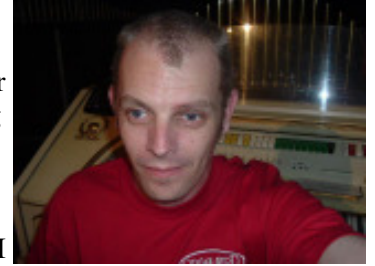
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## John Baker takes job as Stoprail Circulation Man

I'd like to take this time to say hello, as your new Stoprail circulation director. The job was given to me by Beverly about the middle of January. After receiving about 8 lists of information, and building a new database on the computer, I had everything up and ready to go, then I created a booboo when I manually sent out an email, and forgot that the database does it automatically. Because I didn't let the database do its job people received an email with no attachment. I guess I should leave the work to the computer. In last month's newsletter there was an article about me taking over the circulation of the Stoprail. My email address was printed, along with my phone number. I'd like to make a new change to the email address. If you have any questions, concerns or comments about the circulation of the Stoprail, please email me at OSP\_7KPIPES@b3mk2.com instead of Corrado@b3mk2.com. I need to be able to handle the specific needs of our chapter by it's own email address. The email that you have on file will still work, but I ask that anything to do with the Stoprail be dealt with the OSP\_7KPIPES@b3mk2.com address. I've had some questions asked about what I do specifically. I receive the Stoprail as a PDF from Beverly after it's been proofread. For those that get the hardcopy, I print out the newsletters, fold them, stuff the envelopes, print out the labels, stamp the envelopes and mail them. For those that get the PDF, the database finds the names, and emails a copy of the PDF via e-mail. I really like the job so far and look forward to many many issues to come.



We want to wish you a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** when your special day comes around. Let us know the month and day, and we will be tickled to put it in the Stoprail. Just let Ed Benoit know at 623-327-1437 or e-mail him at: WurliTzer@q.com



## We wish you a Happy Birthday!

Birthday time! A slice of cake goes out to our March birthday cake eaters, Randy Charles, Phillis Lowe, Ron Rhode, Bill Challberg, Kris Dinnsen and William Campbell.. If we missed yours, let us know. So, blow out those candles and have a good time!

## The Stoprail

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

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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.



## Jack Fancher

Dear Friends & Family,  
I will be talking with all of you later, but I am writing to tell you that my darling Jack passed away. He had a strange day & I asked the nurses & CNA's to please keep an eye on him & to call me if they or he needed me. I was called to Aviara Healthcare Center & just returned home. The Mortuary came & I gave my dearest one last kiss & told him that I will see him in heaven—save a place for me! Much love to all & please keep me in your prayers. Susan :'(

*Obituary is on page 6*

## Organ Videos

Hey gang, I went yesterday to the Senate Theatre, and these videos are a by-product of that trip. The final event was held at the theatre on January 3rd and the organ may be coming out soon, so I thought it would be good to record some things there.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6tl8DbVGaQ>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uns\\_-I-nPd4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uns_-I-nPd4)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SasVPH3caM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCar7uMstoE>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCGaM0xUknA>

enjoy! John Lauter

## 2010 Calendar of Events

**Saturday March 6 - 2:30 pm** Board Meeting at Phoenix College

**Sunday March 14 - 1:15 pm** Organ Stop Pizza - Doors open at 1:15

**Saturday March 20 - 6:45 pm** - Ella Cinders - featuring Colleen Moore

**Sunday May 16 2:00 pm** - Meeting at Fizzell's

**July** We are hosting the Youth Camp again this year. More info to come.

**Sunday October 17 - 1:15 pm** Organ Stop Pizza - Doors open at 1:15

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

## Phoenix College Organ Work Dates

Here are March P.C. Work Dates... 3/6, 3/14, 3/20, 3/28 If you want to work at Phoenix College, call Bill Carr at 623-694-1746 for more information and to let him know you are coming.

## Letters to the editor

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

*Send letters to [beverlyfz2@cox.net](mailto:beverlyfz2@cox.net) or Beverly Fizzell 2201 East Siesta Phoenix Arizona 85042 We can even include photos with your letter!*

## Johannus Organ has new home

**From Jinny and Vic LaFave:**

Thanks to the following people who responded to our request some time ago about our church purchasing a Johannus organ: Don Story, Adrian Phillips, Ed Benoit and Tom Fizzell gave us their thoughts/info about it. Thought you might like to know what happened. The organ in question was purchased after our giving the people involved the info you all gave us. Our opinion is that perhaps it was a good deal but several things have had to be done, like setting it up to the best of it's ability sound wise and the organist learning how to better use all the stops. In time I'm sure it will be a good purchase money wise. At least we hope so. Thanks for your time. Jinny and Vic LaFave

**From Hassell Moores:**

Bev - thanks so much for your help and your work on the newsletters. I am always impressed and appreciate your fine job with the newsletter.

Although I have not worked on a newsletter in all my years of working with Arts Groups, I can appreciate all the efforts it takes you to get it together. Hassell

**From Norma Campbell:**

I'm happy John has taken a big load off your shoulders. I read it (Stoprail) not once, not twice, but, innumerable times! Norma.

**From Hassell Moores:**

As always, you did a great job with the newsletter. I really appreciate your efforts in putting together the newsletter. Hassell



## Don't get lost in the system!

*To avoid problems it is important to contact the right people.*

**If you didn't get your Stoprail:** Call John Baker, circulation man at 480-415-8357 or e-mail him at: [OSP\\_7KPIPES@b3mk2.com](mailto:OSP_7KPIPES@b3mk2.com)

**For membership:** New and former member info, address, phone or e-mail changes and birthday info, contact Ed Benoit at 30110 W. Latham Street, Buckeye, AZ 85326 Tel: 623-327-1437 or E-mail to [WurliTzer@q.com](mailto:WurliTzer@q.com)

**For any other issues:** Contact a board member.

**Cartoon** - I know this is not legible, but the cartoon is too fun to leave out since we are in the wild west. The story is this: Ella wants to pan for gold and finds a guide to help her. An old prospector comes along and starts a fight, defending what he says is his claim. Meanwhile, Ella takes off to the assayers office with the gold.



## More on Ella Cinders movie

September, 1926

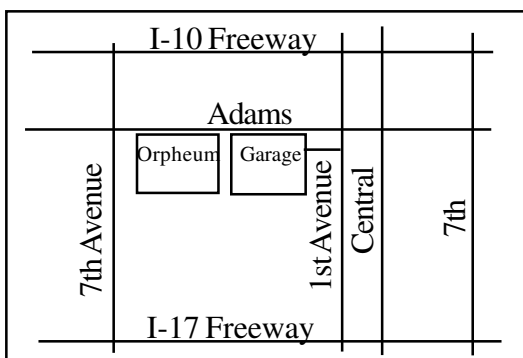
Review by Motion Picture Magazine

This picture is right up the street where Colleen Moore lives. With her sense of the ridiculous she makes this rustic Cinderella a real character study. The first impression of the famous cartoon strip was that it couldn't be done in the movies - that it didn't have enough stuff in it. But translated into celluloid, it more than holds up - and makes good.

We see Ella winning the beauty prize - we see her making off to Hollywood - we see her getting sick on the train as a heap big Injun orders her to smoke one of his cigars - we see her crashing the studio gate successfully - and actually getting a contract for feature roles. Call it hokum if you will - but it is the kind of hokum that registers with nine persons out of ten who do not pose as hardboiled. There is pathos in Ella's every move, and the humor is well-distributed in the studio scenes. Here was a chance for the director to overdo it. But he keeps his balance.

Colleen makes Ella the eccentric "step-child" she is in the comic strip - and Lloyd Hughes, playing

a movie counterpart of "Red" Grange, makes a competent foil for the star. You should enjoy the picture - not only for its appealing characterization, but also for its homey incident which is most colorfully presented. The frail idea might have been spoiled, but, thanks to sympathetic treatment, it takes on real value.



Tickets: General Admission \$15.00, children under 12 are free. Bring your friends! For more information check our website: <http://silentsaturdays.vots-atos.org>

**ORPHEUM PARKING** -Note that the parking meters on the street are active until 8:00 Saturdays. 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. It's best to use a freeway exit near the west side of downtown, 7th Avenue is a good choice. Or park on the street near the Orpheum. Meters are not free on Saturdays. You can take the light rail also to avoid parking.

## Last Film this season

This is your last chance to see a silent film at the Orpheum Theatre this spring. Come and bring your friends.

## Organ Stop Pizza

Walt Strony

Bill Brown asked his staff to present a benefit concert to raise funds to install the Wurlitzer organ at the Orpheum Theatre, Phoenix. We all played solos and etc on the organ. However, our finale was the quartet of all of us playing other instruments. I still get the giggles thinking about how funny it was: Lew Williams on the piano; Ron Rhode playing the oboe (with squeaks between each note!); Lyn Larsen playing the mouth organ and me playing the viola! As I recall, Dave Lindsay sat at the



console and added wood block accents to our “memorable” arrangement of “Yes, We Have No Bananas.” We had one heck of a time getting through the rehearsal - we laughed so hard that we could barely play!

In this *photo*: Walt Strony, Lew Williams, Lyn Larsen, Ron Rhode

## Youth Silent Film Festival

Silent Film and the Theatre Organ celebrate their 100th birthdays this year! In celebration, a Youth Silent Film Festival was formed with original scores written by Nathan Avakian for the organ accompaniment.

The first annual Youth Silent Film Festival will take place at the Portland Oregon’s Hollywood Theatre in June.

This unique event will provide an opportunity for young filmmakers to create a modern version of a silent film, see it on the “big screen” with live musical accompaniment and win cash prizes!

The festival will engage Portland area youth in the creation and celebration of silent film and to raise awareness for and appreciation of the artistry of live film music. First, second and third place films chosen by the Festival jurors to receive cash prizes and enjoy an “awards” screening party on June 12 at the Hollywood Theatre. Nathan Avakian, an eighteen-year-old theatre organist from Portland, Oregon and winner of the prestigious 2009 ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition, will provide musical accompaniment. The competition is open to all Portland area film makers aged 20 years or younger as of June 15, 2010.

## Organ Dedication: 3/20 Wurlitzer Pipe Organ

Spread the word as we have 1250 seats to fill. Understand that Lyn Larsen will do a few numbers. It’s free!!

*Gordon Belt*

We are firming up plans this week for the March 8<sup>th</sup> event at Barnum Hall. We are zeroing in on the details for the *Welcome Back Barnum Hall! concert to thank the community event*. This concert is our opportunity to celebrate the completion of the renovation of Barnum Hall, welcome the theatre pipe organ and thank everyone who had a hand in returning Barnum Hall to the community. We are still firming up the line up. We should be able to issue a press release by the end of this week/beginning of next. The basics are: *Welcome Back, Barnum Hall! A Concert to thank the community* March 8, 2010 7:00pm Tickets are free to the public, first come, first served. Parking on campus (free), overflow parking at the Civic Center Garage (\$8) Address: 600 Olympic Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90404

*Piano Recall* Yamaha has recalled 20,000 pianos due to a pedal sticking problem, causing pianists to play faster than they normally would, resulting in a dangerous number of accidentals. The sticking pedal also makes it harder for jazz pianists to come to a full stop at the end of a piece making it extremely risky for audiences. *from Don Story*

# 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		

*Jack Edwin Fancher* passed away Monday, February 15, 2010. He was born on February 10, 1933 in Phoenix, AZ., son of Robert and Alice Fancher. Jack retired from teaching after 28 years, from Creighton School District #14. Along with being a great teacher, he was a member of the Oceanside Elks Club, Carlsbad Village Optimist Club, Scripps Health Foundation, and Scripps Research. Jack is survived by his wife of 26+ years, Susan Kay Fancher; daughter, Nancy Ann Fancher-Withem of Buckeye, AZ.; and brothers Robert L. Fancher of Phoenix, AZ., and Michael L. Fancher of Holland/Phoenix. He was preceded in death by his father, Robert in 1979, and his mother, Alice in 1979. Memorial Service was held February 20 at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2775 Carlsbad Blvd. Carlsbad, CA. Jack's ashes will be scattered at sea. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Michael's Episcopal Church or a charity of your choice.



## *The largest gift in ATOS history*

The American Theatre Organ Society is pleased to announce the reception of a major gift. ATOS received a letter from the trustee of the estate of the late Kenelm M. Lufkin of Des Moines, IA, a longtime member of the organization.

The letter included a check in the amount of \$900,000, the largest single gift ever given to ATOS. In granting the funds, Mr. Lufkin left no specific instructions nor restrictions, thus ATOS has the opportunity to provide funding for several worthy programs.

More importantly, the Board of Directors will be guided with input from our experts on the Fund Raising Committee and the new Financial Review Committee in terms of the best use of these funds for the long term interest and growth of ATOS. Clearly, the vast majority of these new dollars will be invested for the future of the organization. The Board of Directors, the staff, and the membership of ATOS extends its greatest appreciation to those closest to Mr. Lufkin for his largesse, and the monumental impact his gift will have on this organization.

Furthermore, this single occasion points out what the ATOS leadership and its President and CEO Ken Double have been discussing for nearly three years. There are members of this organization from all walks of life who are passionate about theatre organ and the future of this art form. That passion can extend to major gift-giving when the organization presents a well prepared program for future growth.

In addition to the four new Estate Planning gifts that have been announced, this spectacular announcement and Mr. Lufkin's incredible generosity, present ATOS with an entirely new, and certainly much brighter message about the future of theatre organ music and the society charged with promoting and presenting this unique art form.

The American Theatre Organ Society leadership intends to be a good steward of these funds, and looks forward to announcing the allocations for the various worthy and important projects underway and being planned with a close eye on long term growth of the organization.

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**Ad Failure** Ad space trade last month was of no value.

Two attended our silent film & none of us went to their concert.

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## **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 asking \$1600.00. Serious offers considered.

### **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 organists. 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 Bob Ryan at 602-448-5222 or Bob@get.net