

The Organ Log

LOS ANGELES

THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

ISSUE 23

Nov., 2019

In This Issue:

Cover Page:

Candidates for 2020 LATOS Board. &

Open Console/Social

Page 2:

“San Gabriel Organ Project.” By Bruce Skovmand

Page 3:

Upcoming Events

Page 4:

Recurring events



This newsletter is printed in black & white for mailing

**Want to see
the Organ Log
IN COLOR?**

Watch your email inbox for this notice, “The Organ Log is ready for you to read” then download and enjoy!



Visit us at www.LATOS.org

Nominating Committee Report Candidates for 2020 board;

Thank you; Charlton Quinn, Angie Hougen, & Cecil Dover for agreeing to serve on our LATOS Board.

This is great news! We have a full roster!

LATOS SOCIAL Potluck BBQ, Open Console Nov. 16



Hi everyone, Andre Rigden here. I am looking forward to seeing you at my home, November 16, for a fun filled afternoon of music, munching and merriment.

Bring your music book and your favorite appetizer, entree, or dessert and we’ll have a fun time while we enjoy open console at the Allen theatre organ.

My home is located at: 3021 S. Shasta Circle, Los Angeles, CA 90065

From 12—4pm.

See you soon!

Please RSVP to me at laandre@earthlink.net

Editor Vicki here; *I'm always asking for stories for the Organ Log, and I received this GREAT ONE in the U.S. MAIL today.* "San Gabriel organ project."

Mr. Bruce Skovmand wrote; "My wife Ruth and I are now retired at age 92. In 1961 we joined ATOS, back then, known as ATOE. I've written some things about those organ years that may interest some of

Bruce Skovmand

I am Bruce Skovmand... My wife, Ruth and I joined the ATOE in about 1961... During those years, Ruth has been the LATOS secretary during the Dick Simonton, Bob Carson and Neal Kissel administrations... I enjoyed reading about Larry Grundy... Although we never met, we lived parallel lives... I'm sure we had a lot in common... We were born in 1927, he in 1930... He was raised in South Bend, Indiana, as was good friend and LATOS member, Bob Pasalich. Larry served time in the army, as did I. We were both army projectionists. He was at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, I was at Fort Lewis in Washington State. We had 12 theatres at Ft. Lewis. He went to College and got a degree in Electrical Engineering. I went to work as an electrician. They beat us in the children department; they had eight, we had two. Larry worked as an officer for Fischbach & Moore, I retired from Fischbach & Moore's San Diego office as a journeyman wireman in 1990. We both loved the theatre pipe organ. He lived in Hacienda Heights, I had lived in Puente, a stone's throw from Hacienda Heights, which in those days was all citrus groves and called North Whittier Heights. He lived in Fallbrook, we have lived in Vista, a neighboring town since 1972. Larry and I probably bumped elbows at Costco, not knowing each other.

Pipe organ experiences; When we lived in West Covina, Ruth was secretary of LATOS and I was on the original organ installation crew at the **Mission Play House**, then the "San Gabriel Civic Auditorium." The way the San Gabriel organ project came about was that Keith Woodard, a fellow ATOSer, stopped by the house on his way home on evening. Keith had heard about a theatre chair who had quite a few pipe organs to give to Civic, State or Federal institutions. By so doing, as I heard, they could deduct the original cost of these instruments from their taxes. Keith suggested that the San Gabriel Civic was a good place for one. Ruth took the news to the LATOS board at the next board meeting. Ruth knew Cy Melindez, the assistant city manager and keeper of the Civic auditorium. President Neal Kissel got involved and it was decided we, the local LATOS group, could handle the job. This no-doubt was voted on by the general membership at a LATOS meeting. Ruth went to see Cy and he got it put on the city council's agenda for their next meeting. Neal, Ruth and Ray Bonner, the LATOS treasurer, attended the meeting. Neal was always one of those people who could sell refrigerators to Eskimos. Neal invited the San Gabriel City Council and all of their friends and acquaintances to our next concert at the Wiltern Theatre. Cost us nothing! We had 2,500 seats and used a cou-

our readers who have been involved with this type of mechanical stuff. You may want to pick through these pages and put some of it in the Organ Log if you have a slow month."

So, here for your perusal is his writings. Please remember I may have made some errors in transcribing these pages, and I beg your pardon in advance. Please, sit back with a cup of coffee and enjoy...

ple of hundred.

The City Council was thinking about putting on organ concerts themselves and making money on the deal. At the next meeting, the council voted to accept the deal. Neal headed-up the project as crew-chief and I was assistant crew-chief. I was also teaching electrical apprentices at night school at a community college and going on night service calls at various factories and plants, also working full time during the days. Busy times! Good thing we were young in those days.

Neal got a hold of the organ man who was handling the disposition of the organs for the theatre chair. Given the auditoriums size etc. he recommended one of two organs in New York City. The city flew Neal back to check out these organs. He decided on the one in the Brooklyn Albee. The other one was a little better but it would have to be removed through the organ grilles in the theatre. That would have made it undoable for us.

The city flew Neal and Ross Farmer, another good LATOSer, back to Brooklyn to uninstall and pack the organ for shipping. They did so and got a truck crane to lift the pipe cases that Ross and Neal had made for packing pipes, as well as big wooden pipes, regulators, tremms, etc, from the roof of the

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

theatre down to the biggest semi moving-van that could be obtained.

From what I was told, they were in the middle of loading the organ when two of "New York's finest" pulled up in their black & white. One said, "Does youse have a permit for 'dat crane parking in 'da street...?" Of course they didn't...!!! Neal told them that they were removing the organ for the city of... One of the theatre men told Neal. "Dey don't care about 'dat stuff. 'Dey wants money." Neal told him that if he tried to bribe them, he would get arrested. The theatre man told Neal that if he didn't bribe them, he could end up in the slammer. Neal said "Do you think \$20 each would take care of the deal?" Dey... errr... They thought that would be fine. The gendarmes left. They went back to work and in about ten minutes the police sergeant pulls up in his black-and-white. Hooray for police radios, and says..."Hey, yourse got a permit for 'dat crane in 'da street...?" Neal offered him \$40 and he thought 'dat was fine.

The organ arrived at San Gabriel on Thanksgiving Day in 1968.
End of page one from Bruce.

Bruce wrote; "Well, that's about it for now. Should you so desire, I can also tell you about the trials and tribulations of the San Gabriel project, probably the largest project the LATOS has tackled alone. The city paid for all materials and we furnished the labor, gratis...We were happy with the arrangement and the outcome of the project..."
Signed Bruce Skovmand.
Please join us next time for the continuing historic, and sometimes hilarious happenings with Mr. Bruce Skovmand.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 1, Bandrika, Tarzana
Clark Wilson accompanies,
"Freshman"
Tickets, online.
.....

Nov 2, Plummer Auditorium,
7:30pm
Mark Herman accompanies
"Black Pirate"
Tickets can be purchased
at www.octos.org
.....

Nov 16, LATOS Fall Potluck
Social, & Open Console
Join us for this fun afternoon,
from 12—4pm, at LATOS mem-
ber, Andre Rigden's home.
Bring your music book and your
favorite appetizer, entree, or des-
sert and have a fun time while we
enjoy open console at the Allen
theatre organ.
Location: 3021 S. Shasta Circle,
Los Angeles, CA 90065

RSVP to Andre Rigden at laandre@earthlink.net
.....

Nov 16, Nethercutt Museum,
FREE, Walt Strony organ concert.
.....

Nov 17, San Gabriel
Mission Playhouse, 2:30pm
1928's "Show People"
Mark Herman accompanies,
Silent Sunday Series
.....

Nov 23, (TOSSD) 6:00pm
Rosemary Bailey accompanies
"Beggars of Life"
with Wallace Beery
Theatre Organ Society
of San Diego
.....

Dec 9, CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA!

*Hosted by; the American Guild of
Organists, LA Chapter
and Los Angeles Theatre Organ
Society.*

Join us as we celebrate the
holiday season with a festive din-
ner and a holiday music extrava-
ganza with the Mighty Wurlitzer!
Rob Richards of the El Capitan
Theatre, will perform at the organ
accompanied by Pianist Alex
Zsolt.

LOCATION; Founder's Center
for Spiritual Living, 3281 W 6th
St, Los Angeles, Ca. 90020
Dinner convenes at 6:15pm,
served at 6:45pm.
This is a joint meeting with the
Los Angeles AGO and with LA-
TOS; the dinner is \$20 and the
concert is free for all. Concert be-
gins at 8:00pm.

RSVP to Russell Schertle:
russell@rgschertle.com or 323-
828-3633.
.....

Dec. 6 & 7, Jelani Eddington's
Christmas concerts
Nethercutt, Friday-8pm, Saturday-
2 & 8pm
**For Tickets, you must call
ONLY! Nov. 6th. between 4-6pm,
Call 818-364-8484**
.....

Dec. 13 & 14, Christmas concerts
Rob Richards & Alex Zsolt's
Nethercutt, Friday-8pm, Saturday-
2 & 8pm
**For Tickets, you must call
ONLY! November 13th between
4-6pm. Call 818-364-8484**



LATOS
PO Box 15626
Anaheim, CA 92803

ONGOING EVENTS:

ONGOING: Concerts, Movies & Shows at the Old Town Music Hall, 140 Richmond Street, El Segundo. Many shows feature the 4-manual theatre pipe organ. Call (310) 322-2592 (recorded info) or visit <http://www.oldtownmusichall.org>

ONGOING: Concerts at The Nethercutt Collection. Visit <http://www.nethercuttcollection.org/Calendar.aspx> for dates & info.

ONGOING: The Organ Grinders every 2nd Sunday of the month at 2:00pm. Open console on a Roland Atelier (also a volunteer pot-luck). Westminster Presby-

terian Church. 1757 North Lake Ave., Pasadena, in the "Lawrence Chapel" (not in main sanctuary). Free parking in the rear. Contact Elly Reitz 626-281-3311 for more info.

ONGOING: Paramount Iceland, (3/19 Wurlitzer) organ is played for skating sessions every Tuesday 7-8:30pm. featured artist, Bill Campbell. 8041 Jackson St. Paramount. 562-633-1171

ONGOING: SBTOS, Adam Aceto, plays at the 7 PM intermission on Friday nights. Call the theatre at 805-963-4408 to make sure Adam will be playing.

President:
Charlton Quinn, 815-218-6221
charlton.quinn@yahoo.com

Vice President: &
Program Committee Chair:
Kevin Cartwright, 323-333-8922
kevin.r.cartwright@gmail.com

Secretary:
Mark Herman, 626-524-0090
mark@losangelesorgan.com

Treasurer:
Bill Campbell, 414-248-4164
williamcampbellit@yahoo.com

Andre Rigden, 213-435-3057
laandre@earthlink.net

Edward Torres, 424-228-0404,
Edwardtorres212@yahoo.com

Don Hibben, 626-590-1018
latos@lapostmaster.com

Stirling Yearian, 951-287-8235
rexgaloure@msn.com