

The Newsletter Voice of the Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

February 16th Social Reminder

REMEMBER!!! Ken Double plays the Pickwick Wurlitzer at 10:00 am -- Saturday February 16th.

ATOS President, **Ken Double** will entertain us on the theatre's original 3/11 Wurlitzer Theatre Organ.

Please bring plenty of treats & snacks to this event.

The Pickwick Theatre is located at: 5 S. Prospect Ave, Park Ridge, IL 60068 Phone: 847-825-5800.

A Request for Al Melgard Info

Here is a response to the question published in the January Vox asking why Al Melgard played "Happy Days are Here Again" at the 1932 Chicago convention.

From Walt Strony: "Al was ALWAYS an entertainer. He was probably the first person to accompany sporting events on an organ. Think of it - how many other sports arenas had pipe organs in the 1920s? He told me that he brought the same techniques he had learned and used effectively in the silent film days to the sports arena.

He would play "I Love You Truly" when a fight broke out on the ice. And when he (and the audience) didn't agree with the referees - he'd play "Three Blind Mice."

Al always knew of the right song to play at the right time that would lighten up a situation and bring a smile to everyone's face. That's why he was SO successful. What about the time he went into the National Anthem during a riot? He ALWAYS knew the right song to play.

He told me that it was his idea to play Happy Days Are Here Again. And that song was used at all the Democratic National Conventions until recent times when music made a decidedly rock-and-roll turn."

Special Feature for Feb. Social

A long lost film highlighting **Leon Barry** and his "Beast in the Basement" has just been discovered.

The 16mm film dates back to the 1960's and was part of a series called "Face and Place". It was filmed on location in Leon's Norridge residence and shows his wonderful basement organ and many of its pipes and percussions. Songs heard in part on this film include: La Paloma, Jingle Bells, and In the Good Old Summertime.

CATOE member Scott May has contacted the owner of the original film and is arranging to present it at an upcoming social... possibly as early as this Saturday at the Pickwick! We hope that you will be able to join us when we screen this historic film.



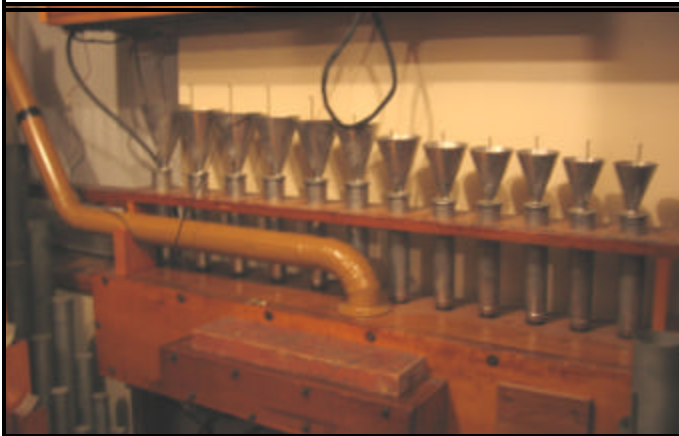
A frame of Leon Barry from the "Place and Face" film that will be shown at the February 16th social at the Pickwick.

Theatre Pipe Organ Rarities

CATOE's David Rhodes submitted photos from a field trip to the homes of Phil and Diane Underwood in Rensselaer, IN. & Gary Rickert of Oak Forest, IL.



The roll playing console to Wurlitzer Opus 471, originally installed in 1921 in the Temple Theatre in Hammond, Ind.



Gary Rickert's 12 note Kimball - Kinura extension (16').



Gary Rickert's gorgeous 'Catlow Theatre' Kimball console.

VOX CATOE's "Footnotes"

♫ **Portage Theatre** Managing Director, **Dennis Wolkowicz**, can be heard on **WLS 890AM** promoting the Silent Film Society's upcoming presentation of Alfred Hitchcock's silent classic "**The Lodger**". The recorded announcement is part of the station's "WLS Cares" public service campaign.

The Silent Film Society will show Alfred Hitchcock's "The Lodger" in a special matinee performance on **Sunday, February 17, 2008 at 2:30 p.m.** at the Portage Theatre, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago.

The 40-piece Lake Forest College Orchestra with conductor David Amrein will provide live photoplay accompaniment. This is also the Chicago debut of the new Lodger photoplay score composed by David Amrein, Meg Golembieski and Don Meyer.

♫ The **Dairyland Theatre Organ Society** will present **Dean Rosko** in an evening concert at the **Racine Theatre Guild** on **Sunday, March 30th**. Ticket prices are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Check the next VOX for complete details.

♫ John Shanahan provides us with this late 1950's image of the Roseland State Theatre console while still in the theatre. The organ was a 3/12 Moller, and was broken up for parts. John is writing a feature to be published in an upcoming ATOS bulletin.

