



P.O. Box 667 Lyons, Illinois 60534 / Online [www.catoe.org](http://www.catoe.org)

## The Newsletter Voice of the Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

### CATOE's Renewable Resources

By now you should have received your 2008 membership renewal form and return address sticker in the mail. Please take a few moments to return the completed form along with your dues of **\$30** (payable to CATOE) today.

We have seen many great performances over the past year and your dues go directly to funding these events. In addition to the publication of the Vox Newsletter, your financial support assists in the maintenance of our area theatre organ installations.

If you have not yet received your renewal, please contact membership Director, Paul Van Der Molen, or simply send a note with your name, address, phone number, and your \$30 membership dues to:

**CATOE Membership Chair**  
C/O Paul Van Der Molen  
0 N 468 Willow Rd.  
Wheaton IL 60187-2934  
(630) 653-4986 Fax (630) 653-4987

### A Request for Al Melgard Info

We received the following question at the CATOE website. If you have an answer, please let Gary & us know!

*"Did Al Melgard, longtime Chicago Stadium organist, ever give an interview, oral history, or the like in which he addressed the question of why he played 'Happy Days Are Here Again' when Roosevelt's name was placed in nomination at the 1932 Chicago convention? If so, where and when?"*

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Philadelphia, PA 19103 (215) 972-0600  
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### Double Your February Pleasure

To celebrate the new year, CATOE is offering you an extraordinary **"Double Offer"** that cannot be missed!!! **Ken Double** at the **Pickwick Wurlitzer!**

Join us at **10:00 am on Saturday February 16th** for a morning of music and memories as ATOS President Ken Double travels back to the Pickwick Theatre (where he first fell in love with the theatre organ) to entertain us on the theatre's original 3/11 (Style 225) Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ.

Please bring plenty of treats & snacks to this event.

Thanks to **Dino Vlahakis** for opening his theatre to host this month's social and to **Mark Hanson** for getting the organ ready for this special event.

More information on Ken can be found on page 2.



A vintage postcard of the Pickwick theatre in Park Ridge.

## A Bit About Ken Double

Organist/  
broadcaster/  
entertainer

Ken Double likes to tell people, "I've worked very hard for over 30 years trying NOT to work for a living, having been paid to watch sporting events, and play theatre organs. Like the song says, 'Nice work if you can get it.'"



For more than 30 years, he has been heard on radio and seen on television as a sportscaster, and since 1978, has been at the console of the great theatre pipe organs, indeed working hard to entertain his audiences.

Born in Chicago the last of six boys, his love of sports was just a normal part of growing up. Double parlayed that into a degree in Radio-TV from Butler University in Indianapolis, and enjoyed a career that has included play-by-play in the NHL, AHL, NBA, major college sports, the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race and more.

But even after 30-plus years of broadcasting, he is still better known in certain circles for his talents at the pipe organ. He began organ lessons at age 8. A school field trip during his sophomore year in high school took him to the Pickwick Theatre in the Chicago suburb of Park Ridge, IL and Ken was instantly hooked on the wonderful sounds of the mighty theatre organ.

Ten years of lessons, three summers playing the organ for the Tommy Bartlett Water Show in Wisconsin Dells, and a stint as the first organist at the Market Square Arena in Indianapolis helped Ken pay for college, and it was off to the broadcast world as a sportscaster. However, he would never stray too far from his love of the theatre organ, and in December of 1978, he was on the bill for his first public concert. He performed a holiday show on the Page organ at the Embassy Theatre in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. But, it would be three years before Ken would perform in concert again.

However, that three-year hiatus proved fruitful. Double began subbing on the staff of the pipe-organ-equipped Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, all the while appearing nightly on the news to deliver the sports headlines of the day.

In February of 1982, Double performed the first concert on the new installation at the Long Center in Lafayette, IN. This marked two firsts in his career. It was the first of now 26 annual concerts at Long Center. And, it was the first of four "premier" concerts he would play on new installations in Indiana. (The others being the Warren Center Barton organ, the Paramount Theatre Page organ in Anderson, IN and the Wurlitzer at Manual High School in Indianapolis.)

During his concert career, Double has performed all over the world, including stops in Seattle, WA; Wilmington, DE; Tampa, FL; Chicago, IL; Los Angeles, CA; the famous Casa Loma in Toronto, and three six-week tours throughout Australia. In addition to his hundreds of concerts, he has nine CD's to his credit, including his latest titled *DOUBLE SOUTHERN COMFORT, A Musical Toast to the South*, played on the Walker RTO 335; and his ninth disc, *Christmas at the Nethercutt Museum on the 4/76 Wurlitzer*. He has just completed his 10th recording entitled *The Music of Casa Loma*, the first-ever recording on the great Wurlitzer in the Great Hall of Toronto's historic castle.

The concert season of 2007-08 finds Ken performing from Minnesota to Massachusetts, Missouri to Texas, a fourth tour to Australia, and a return to the Casa Loma in Toronto, Ontario. He will also "hit the trifecta" as artist, MC, and acting President during the 2008 ATOS Annual Convention in Indianapolis, IN, in addition to his annual visits to Long Center in Lafayette and the Warren Center in Indianapolis.

Sportscaster, master of ceremonies, theatre organist, even vocalist upon occasion, Ken Double indeed works hard at making it look easy when entertaining at the pipe organ. (*Biography complements Toronto TOS.*)

**Editor's Note: "DOUBLE SOUTHERN COMFORT"**  
Ken's newest CD, can be ordered by sending \$20 per CD (which includes shipping and handling) to:  
**Steve Worthington PO Box 316 Millis, MA 02054**