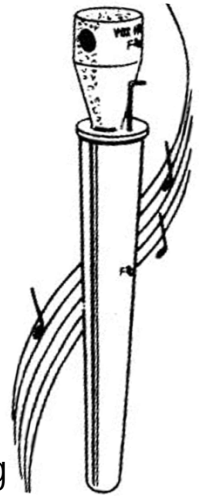


# CATOE

## June 2007

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 June Meeting & Social

Kick-off the summer with CATOE at the June social **Saturday, June 16th at 10 am**. It's another opportunity to enjoy the sounds of the CATOE Wurlitzer Opus 942 at the gorgeous Tivoli Theatre in suburban Downers Grove. We enjoyed hearing this organ at our April meeting and we are once again invited by **Willis and Shirley Johnson** and 'Classic Cinemas' to use their Tivoli Theatre for this social.

Organists **George Smith** of Indianapolis and CATOE's **Adam Grueber** of Arlington Heights will both perform at this event on a **REAL LIFE** Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ! (Biographical info on page 2.)

Remember to bring some snacks to share; the theater concession stand will be open for beverages and traditional movie concessions.

The Tivoli is located one block east of Main Street at **5021 Highland Avenue**. Main street is called Lemont Road on the south end, and is easily reached from I-55 (Stevenson) on the south, Ogden Avenue on the north, and is a few miles east of route 53 and the I-355 tollway.

The theatre is handicapped accessible and is adjacent to the Downers Grove stop on the Metra Burlington Northern line. Street parking is available.

Wurlitzer Opus 942, (3M/10R) was originally installed in the Indiana Theatre in East Chicago, Indiana, in 1924. The organ was first played by Ambrose Larson, a Wurlitzer demonstrator and close personal friend of another organist, John Muri.

#### Great Arcada Railroad Show

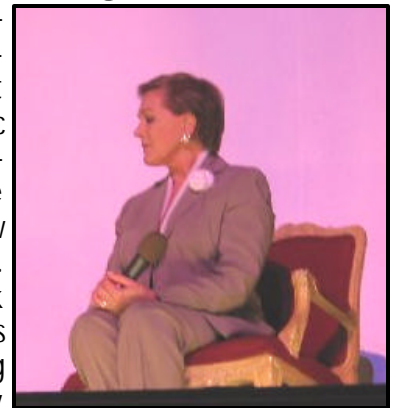
**Sunday June 3rd at 2:30 pm** CATOE and the Silent Film Society proudly present "The Great Arcada Railroad Show" at the Arcada Theatre, North Avenue (Route 64) at the Fox River, St. Charles, Illinois.

See Tom Mix and his wonder horse "Tony" starring in the 1926 silent film classic "The Great K & A Train Robbery" with live photoplay accompaniment by Jay Warren on the Arcada's 3/16 **Geneva/Marr and Colton theatre pipe organ**. Also at this event, a showing of Barney Oldfield in "Race for Life" (1913) and Jay's "Roundhouse Sing-along".

Advanced sale tickets are: **\$10, \$12 day of show**. Mail order tickets from: **CATOE BOX OFFICE, 173 S. Rosedale Avenue. Aurora, Illinois 60506-4530**. Please make checks payable to CATOE. For information or to order tickets, phone: **(630) 892-8136**.

#### Andrews Gets Organ Overture

Julie Andrews Edwards (right) appeared in person last month at the Classic Cinemas' Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove to promote her new book, "Thanks to You". CATOE wants to thank Shirley and Willis Johnson for hiring David Rhodes to play CATOE's Wurlitzer pipe organ at this event!! (Thanks to David Rhodes for this "Console-Eye-View")



## About the Artist George Smith

George's musical career began in Indianapolis, Indiana in the grade school orchestra playing piano. From there he entertained people everywhere. In high school, he was in most every band and orchestra playing percussion. When he was a senior his first professional opportunity came along at the Roller Rondo Skating Rink. From there he played Hammond Organ at several large rinks, and a rare opportunity developed at Skateland Roller Palace in Alexandria, Indiana where he performed at the Wurlitzer Organ, and of course a Hammond organ.

After Army duty in the late 1950's, he purchased his first Hammond Organ & Leslie Speaker. With the help of his wife Norma, he opened George Smith's Music Center, Inc. The store was in the top sales leaders in the piano & organ industry in the Midwest and remain a leader with Hammond-Suzuki, Inc. U.S.A. in sales & service.

George & Norma have had the pleasure of working with or supplying instruments to such notables in the entertainment business as: Ray Charles, Joey DeFrancesco, Tony Monaco, The Indiana State Fair, Tony Hulman and many more. George is house organist for the Paramount Theatre Centre & Hardacre Ballroom and teaches piano/organ/keyboards.

George & Norma are members of the American Theatre Organ Society, and remain faithful after more than 50 years and 3 sons.



## About the Artist Adam Gruber

Adam Gruber is fourteen years old and lives in Arlington Heights with his parents and two cats. Adam started taking piano lessons at age eight and organ lessons at ten. He is currently taking piano, church and classical organ lessons with Dr. Dennis Northway of Chicago. Adam also sings with, and has directed the Madrigal Choir at Grace Episcopal Church in Oak Park. Adam is also studying music theory and music history with Dr. Northway.

Adam has studied theater organ with Jelani Eddington, and currently is studying with John Ferguson of Indianapolis. Adam also plays keyboards with the Jazz Ensemble at South Middle School in Arlington Heights, where he graduated this spring.

Adam has attended ATOS, OHS, and AGO national conventions and has been to two AGO Pipe Organ Encounters and will be attending the Springfield Massachusetts POE this summer. He is typically the youngest registered conventioner at these professional conventions, and enjoys seeing, playing, and learning about new organs. Adam's first convention was the ATOS National convention in Milwaukee when he was ten.

Adam's first exposure to the organ was at the Silent Film Festival Society summer movie series when Adam was eight. He did not watch the movie; he watched the organist and became very curious as to the workings of the organ. The artist for the event, Jay Warren, invited Adam to see the chambers and play the instrument. So, for Adam's ninth birthday he explored the chambers getting his hands on the organ. He was hooked.

Adam's many hobbies include: chess, reading, watching movies, modern music, and riding his bicycle. He begins high school in the fall.

