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NEWSLETTER VOICE OF THE  
**Chicago Area  
Theater Organ Enthusiasts**  
A State and Federal not for profit tax exempt Organization  
*Chicago Area Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society*

**SEPTEMBER 2001**



***Paul and Linda Van Der Molens Wonder Morton organ  
See page three for more details***

**September 30th “CATOE's BIG BAND STAGE REVUE” with Ron Smolen and his Big Band Orchestra and Don Springer at the Pickwick Mighty Wurlitzer .  
*See information on enclosed flyer and pages two and four.***

## CATOE PUBLIC SHOW September 30th

CATOE's BIG BAND STAGE REVUE with Ron Smolen and his Big Band Orchestra and Don Springer at the Pickwick Mighty Wurlitzer. Pickwick Theatre 5 S. Prospect Park Ridge, IL Sunday, September 30, 2001 2:30P  
Public sale tickets: \$10 adv; \$12 at the door  
Member tickets: \$9 available advance mail order only

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## Chicago Theatre 80th Anniversary

November 16th...Clark Wilson at the Wurlitzer Chicago Theatre 80th Anniversary party...*More details later.....*CATOE will be assisting getting the organ ready for the program

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## Bill Reiger

CATOE member Bill Reiger is currently recuperating at the Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. We wish Bill a speedy recovery. *Calls and cards would be welcomed.*

Lutheran General Hospital  
1775 Dempster Street  
Park Ridge, IL 60068  
847-723-2154

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## PATIO THEATRE is expected to re-open in September.

ARCADA THEATRE in St. Charles will be closing as a Classic Cinemas Movie house on 16 September.  
*More details on the theatre's future when available*

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*Friends of the Genesee Barton Organ is now the Genesee Theatre Organ Club.* The new club was established to help manage and expedite the restoration of Waukegan's Gemessee Theatre's Barton Organ. The original 3/10 organ was found to be too severely water damaged to restore and the former Tower Theatre 3/10 Barton from Milwaukee has been obtained to replace the damaged organ. The original Genesee console will be put on display. More information about the theatre and organ restoration is available on line at: <http://www.genesetheatre.org/>

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## Jerry Kinsella

We sadly report the loss of long time CATOE member Jerry Kinsella who passed away on August 27th at the Age of 60. We extend our deepest sympathy for his loss.

## Van Der Molen

*From Paul & Linda Van Der Molen as related by Robert Wilhelm.*

Another theater organ has been returned to playing condition with the completion of the 4/26 Robert Morton of Paul and Linda Van Der Molen in Wheaton, Illinois.

Many will remember the "old" instrument from conventions and other musical events held at the Van Der Molen residence. Approximately three years ago Paul and Linda embarked on a major renovation of their home and the 20 ranks of organ and traps and percussions, were placed in storage. The 3 manual Robert Morton console, originally from Loew's Fairmont in the Bronx, New York, was then donated to the Ohio Theatre in Columbus, Ohio where it will be used as a slave console. Its decoration is identical to the 4 manual Robert Morton console that is part of the original Ohio Theatre installation.

For the past 18 months organbuilders Fred Gollnick, Dave Krall, and Bob Wilhelm, the writer of this article, have been working to not only reinstall the instrument but to enlarge it as well.

The instrument will now be played from the console originally installed in from Lowe's Kings in Brooklyn, New York. The Kings organ was one of the five 4/23 Wonder Mortons that Robert Morton built.

Van Der Molen's residence organ was enlarged by six ranks. The 4/26's specification was drafted by Clark Wilson who serves as technical consultant for Paul's installation. The condition of the console, when Paul purchased it, was "poor" at best. It has been totally restored by Dave Krall and with the final painting, gold leafing, and antiquing was done by Tony D'Angelo has regained its original beauty.

The removal, storage, and reinstallation of the instrument has been under the direction of Fred Gollnick. The original installation placed the chambers to the right of the listener as they faced the console. In the redesigned music room the organ now speaks from two chambers on either side of the console with a third percussion chamber in the apex of the ceiling above the console.

A basement below the chamber floor houses the 15Hp Spencer Orgoblo (which replaced a 10Hp Spencer) from the Tower Theatre in Philadelphia along with all regulators, reservoirs, and tremolos. The organ is served by a dedicated heating & air conditioning system and the shade panels are acrylic so that the pipework may be viewed. Unenclosed sound effects and untuned percussions are located in the ceiling area along with the xylophone, sleigh bells, and chimes.

*(continued on page three)*

## en's "Wonder" Morton Update

(continued from page two)

Bob Wilhelm provided integration of the relay, MIDI, and combination action systems for the instrument. As Paul's original instrument operated with a Z-tronics relay, that system was chosen for the new installation to avoid having to rewire the chests. Component delivery took nine months and assembly required another three months with console installation requiring about a month. All stop tablets are mounted on Syndyne SAMs.

The console sits on a motorized platform designed by Fred and runs in and out of an alcove on a small stage identical to the implementation at Radio City Music Hall. The console includes 64 levels of memory, 92 pistons, 15 for each manual, 6 for the pedal, 20 manual generals, 5 pedal generals, and cancels for all manuals, pedal and the complete organ. The crescendo is selectable to any of 4 artist programmable builds. The console has 286 stop tabs. This was accomplished by filling out the 2 main stop rails and adding two partial stop rails, one on each side. The console has second touch for the Accompaniment and Great manuals, along with MIDI capability for each manual. The record/playback system is operable by the artist at the console or from the sound/lighting control desk at the rear of the room.

This installation is unique in that it includes two independent MIDI systems; the first time Z-tronics hardware has ever been configured in this manner. The first MIDI system serves as a recorder/player for the console/instrument. Recorded data may be edited using standard computer software programs such as Cakewalk. The second MIDI system functions to play the 9' Steinway Grand Piano (signed by Van Cliburn no less) connected to the instrument as well as provides MIDI sound module capability for future use.

Perhaps for the first time ever in association with a theatre organ, the Steinway includes a PianoDisk MIDI recording strip which is connected to the organ's record/play system in order that duet performances by organists and pianists may be recorded live and later played back. The system design allows the Piano to retain its independent PianoDisk player/recorder features independent of the pipe organ. The flexibility to configure the pair of Z-MIDI systems for tandem operation and functionality is a tribute to the software designs of Larry Chace. Likewise Larry's software programming skills provide the combination action system with a host of capabilities and features that are not often found in competitive systems.

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Also unique to this instrument is a PTC (positive temperature coefficient) fusing system for the SAM combination action circuits. They are unique in that they provide the same protective action of a circuit breaker or fuse however they will self-reset when the overcurrent cause is corrected and power cycled. Costs are comparable to that of fusing and offer several advantages. Perhaps most helpful is that the circuitry remains powered with a small current flow to greatly aid troubleshooting. The inherent advantage is that the potential to destroy driver transistor ICs, wiring, circuit boards, and SAMs is practically eliminated which is not the case with standard fusing schemes. The devices meet the intent of the latest NFPA Electrical Code for pipe organ use.

The instrument first played on July 24th with Richard Hills from the UK at the console. As none of us play, we found it necessary to have an organist available for a week to assist us in checking out the instrument. With Richard's help we were able to start setting tremolo speeds and generally start to bring the instrument to playable condition. Richard left us with several MIDI recordings with which to continue our instrument refinements, adjustments, and troubleshooting.

Paul and Linda's hope is to have the instrument ready to use this coming holiday season for some events at the house. The Van Der Molen 4/26 Robert Morton will be featured at Rialtofest 2002 with Jelani Eddington.

### Van Der Molen Morton Pipe Organ Chamber Analysis

#### Solo (12 ranks)

English Post Horn	8'
Trumpet	8'
Diaphonic Horn Diapason	16'-4'
Solo Tibia Clausa	32'-1'
Saxophone	8'
Orchestral Oboe	8'
Kinura	8'
Gamba	16'-2'
Gamba Celeste	8'
Solo Vox Humana	8'-4'
Spitz Flute	8'-4'
Spitz Flute	4'

#### Main (14 ranks)

Tuba	16'-8'
Diaphonic Diapason	16'-4'
Tibia Clausa	8'-2'
French Horn	8'
Clarinet	8'-4'
Oboe Horn	16'-8'
Cor Anglais	16'-8'
Concert Violin	8'-4'
Concert Violin Celeste	4'
Muted Viol	8'-4'
Muted Viol Celeste	8'-4'
Concert Flute	32'-1'
Concert Flute Celeste	4'
Vox Humana	8'

#### Percussions & Effects

Percussion Harp	49 bars
Percussion Glockenspiel	37 bars
Percussion Chrysglott	49 bars
Percussion Cymbals	

#### Unenclosed

9' Concert Steinway Piano	85 notes
Xylophone	49 bars
Chimes	25 tubes
Sleigh Bells	25 bells
Un-tuned Percussions	
Sound Effects	

Complete stoplist and photos of the organ are on the inter-net at:  
<http://members.bellatlantic.net/~wilhelmr/vdmorton.htm>  
 Website and information for this article provided by Robert Wilhelm