

*Sunday, March 24th, 3:00 pm*  
*Hamm-O-Rama at Joe Patten's Apartment in the Fox*



Atlanta Journal Constitution Photo

*A Very Special Fox Theatre Event*  
*"Music in the Joe Patten Residence"*

By Larry Davis

In June 2007, the Atlanta Chapter was privileged to return to the Fox Theatre for a program on the great Möller theatre organ and in May 2008 and February 2010 for meetings in Joe Patten's apartment. On March 24th, we will be at the Fox again, this time for a very special musical event. Our Hamm-O-Rama for 2013 will again be held in the apartment of Joe Patten in the Fox. A visit to Joe's magnificent residence is always a special treat, and at Joe's invitation, one that we will all have an opportunity to experience on March 24th.

**The Instruments...** Joe's apartment is home to a fascinating collection of personal and Fox memorabilia. For the purposes of our meeting, it is also the home of a Hammond RT3 organ and a Chickering reproducing grand piano. The Hammond includes percussions, a Leslie speaker, a 32-note pedalboard, and a 32' pedal tone. A reproducing piano is more than a player piano; it is an instrument that accurately reproduces the playing of a great piano artist using rolls that include variations in touch and pedaling. Joe has a large collection of piano rolls for this very special musical instrument, which is the same model as that in the concert hall of the International Piano Archive in Maryland.

**The Program...** We will begin promptly at 3 pm. Because of accessibility issues, we respectfully ask that you arrive early enough to be in the apartment by our start time – and you are welcome to arrive early (see below for issues and instructions). We will begin by introducing Mr. Joe Patten and asking him to tell us a little about the residence. Our musical program will feature music by several local Hammond artists

including (in alphabetical order) Ken Double, Wanda Carey Fields, Bob Fountain, Jeff Harbin, Lloyd Hess, Lee Lanier, and a possible surprise. We trust that some of our other Hammond artists will take to the bench to entertain us on Joe's wonderful instrument.

There may even be piano-organ duets... reproducing piano rolls... it is going to be an entertaining and varied afternoon.

**Parking and Accessibility...** The Fox Theatre is located at 660 Peachtree Street at the corner of Ponce de Leon Avenue (PDL). Please note that this section of PDL is now two-way which has changed the parking pattern. There are parking lots all around the Fox, including at the Georgian Terrace Hotel directly across from the theatre and a lot directly across PDL from the entrance to Joe's apartment. Please tell the attendants that you are attending an event at the Fox and you may get a special rate.

We will enter Joe's apartment through a private door on the Ponce de Leon side of the theatre not far from the stage door. There will be someone there to welcome and direct you. Because of parking issues and accessibility, please give yourself plenty of time to park and get to the apartment before 3 pm.

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*Keep An Eye Out For A Missive in your  
Mailbox*

There has been a lot of good, hard work and a lot of progress on the Page Organ at Stephenson High School. Both the band and choral departments hope to incorporate the Page in year-end programs in May, so there is a lot of work still to be done in a short period of time. Our thanks to our volunteers, A.E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company, the crew at the Alabama Theatre (they've rebuilt some components for us!!) and all who have helped out. Look for a full update in your mailbox soon. We are making the "Big Push" to get the Page convention-ready!

Then, we will have a separate letter to be mailed to all chapter members.

Do we send that to you? I think we can print the letters and envelopes. Might need a little group session for stuffing, sealing and stamping.

*Ken Double*

**Atlanta Chapter,  
American Theatre Organ Society**

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*AC/ATOS is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under  
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Chapter President - *Tim Stephens*  
Vice President - *James Thrower*  
Treasurer - *Rick McGee*  
Secretary - *Kathy Lanegger*  
Newsletter Editor - *Elbert Fields*  
Associate Editor - *Wanda Carey Fields*  
Chapter Correspondent - *Larry Davis*

*Ads or announcements for this newsletter:  
Contact Elbert Fields at 770-435-7340 or  
[elfields@yahoo.com](mailto:elfields@yahoo.com)*

***Welcome New Member***

Mark Herman  
5510 N. Illinois Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

***Thanks for the Donations***

Frank Brown  
Mark Herman (Page Fund)  
Tim Stephens (Page Fund)

***Notice: Membership  
Renewals Were Due by  
March 1st***

Calendar-year 2013 dues of  
\$35 per household (Students  
\$17.50) are now past due.

Please use the Membership  
Application on Page 4 noting the  
instructions included therein.

Failure to renew your  
membership immediately could  
result in your being dropped  
from newsletter distribution for  
the April issue.

***Larry-Douglas Embury Steps Down from Atlanta Fox  
Convention Concert***

Jelani Eddington to perform in his place  
Wednesday, July 3 at the Atlanta Fox

February 18, 2013

To my dear friends at ATOS and in the Atlanta chapter:

I was thrilled to be invited to perform for the upcoming convention, and was so much looking forward to the concert.

However, due to some recent health issues that could affect preparation and rehearsal, I must beg your indulgence and step down from the convention concert. My focus must first be on my continuing full recovery so I can carry on my duties as Organist-in-Residence at the Fabulous Fox.

I trust you will understand this decision was difficult, but it is for the best.

It will be a great convention in Atlanta.

Sincerely,

*Larry-Douglas Embury*

See the full convention lineup at [www.atosatlanta2013.org](http://www.atosatlanta2013.org).

***The Vegas Show 2013 at the Strand with Organ Pops Pre-  
Show Before Every Performance***

Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings March 7, 8, and 9th with organ pre-show at 7:30 pm. Then a Sunday March 10th matinee and evening show with organ pre-shows at 2:30 and 5:30.

Come help the Strand and the Cobb Humane Society and be entertained by a great Earl Reece Vegas style production. Our friend and Strand Board member Steve Imler (who gave the money for the organ lift) is producing this musical revue that features a kid-friendly show with such classic acts as The Temptations, Elvis, Justin Bieber, Wayne Newton, and Celine Dion. Ron Carter will perform an organ pops pre-show that will feature Strand singers Catherine Rhodes and Joe Anotti (the two great performers who entertained at the Carter's November ATOS program). Come hear the Atlanta Chapter's Mighty Allen Theatre Organ!

Tickets are only \$28 with assigned seating. All proceeds go to benefit the Strand Theatre and the Cobb Humane Society.

Contact the Strand Box Office by calling 770-293-0800, or in person  
Monday thru Friday from 9 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm or  
on the web at [www.Earlsmithstrand.org](http://www.Earlsmithstrand.org)

## Update on Theatres of Georgia with Organs: Theatres of Macon

By John Tanner

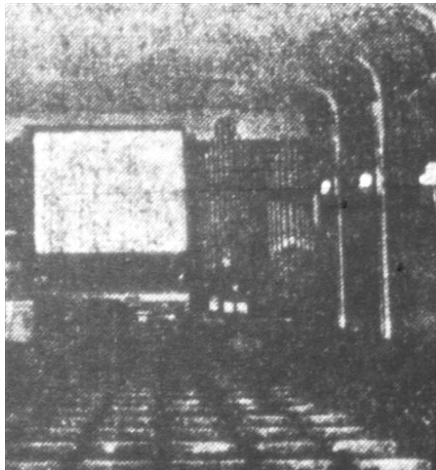
Have you ever been looking for something, then by chance just happen to come across something else that you were looking for at some other time?

Such was the case when I was looking for some information on an organ that we were going to do some work on in the near future.

The Organ Historical Society has listings of many of the organs that were installed in Georgia, so since this job was in Macon, I decided to go on-line and see if OHS had a specification of this particular instrument.

Instead of typing in the company that built the organ I just typed in Macon, Georgia. All the organs listed as having been installed in Macon came up on the list. As I scrolled down to find the church I was interested in, I came across the following item. "J.B. Mellon, Pres. Palace Arms Hotel, Henry Pilcher and Sons, Opus 719.6 1911".

Having recently done an article for the newsletter on the Theatres of Macon, (August and September 2012), the name of J.B. Mellon seemed familiar, and the Palace Arms Hotel seemed curious also.



Going back and checking my notes on the Macon theatres, It was J. B. Melton, Manager of the Palace Theatre who installed an organ in the Palace Theatre in 1911.

Seems like the name was misspelled in the Pilcher Ledger books, Mr. Melton could have been staying at the Palace Arms Hotel or was President, but the organ went to the Palace Theatre.

According to the OHS records, the organ was actually built for the First Presbyterian Church of Elkhart, Indiana in 1886. This church bought a

Pilcher organ Opus 681, in 1910, Pilcher then sold and relocated their old organ to Macon.

Both the Palace Theatre and the Lyric Theatre were closed by the mid 1920's. As to what happened to the Pilcher organs that were in those theatres at this time, no one knows. Most likely, they probably ended up in a church in the middle Georgia area, since they were basically the same kind of organs that Pilcher was building for churches.

Its taken a little over a hundred years to finally identify the organ in the Palace, so who knows what will turn up on some of the other unidentified organs that were in Georgia's theatres?

Upcoming, or when ever I get it finished: Theatres of Augusta with Organs.

**You**  
are Cordially Invited  
to Attend the  
Dedicatory Services  
of our  
**PIPE ORGAN**  
Today--4:30  
at Our Store  
ENRICO LEIDE and  
MRS. CHAS. DOWMAN  
with their chorus of 40 voices  
Featuring  
"THE HOLY CITY"  
**Claude S. Bennett**  
INC.  
DIAMOND MERCHANTS  
207 Peachtree Atlanta

## Organ in a Jewelry Store?

By John Tanner

While the Philadelphia and New York Wana-maker's Department Stores had a pipe organ to provide music while the customers did their shopping.

It seems that one retail establishment here in Atlanta was not about to be outdone in this respect.

Claude S. Bennett Diamond Merchants at one time had a pipe organ in the store located at 207 Peachtree Street.

The organ was installed in November of 1933 with a dedication concert on Dec 3, 1933.

The dedication concert featured the choir of Grace Methodist Church with Enrico Leide and Mrs. Charles Dowman conducting the concert.

It's not clear as to what make of organ or how long it was in the store but over the Christmas season of 1933, Christmas Music was played on the hour and every half hour during lunch time.

*The Giftway of the South*

Here and see the big pipe organ over entrance to our store—franked by lighted Christmas trees, wreaths, store moon, garlands, etc.

Christmas Music played on the hour each day—on the half hour at lunch time.

You will enjoy having an account at  
The South's Most Beautiful Diamond and Jewelry Store.

**Claude S. Bennett**  
INC.  
Diamond Merchants  
207 Peachtree Atlanta



**Upcoming Meetings & Events** *(Mark your Calendars)*

- **March 24, 2013, (Sunday) 3:00 pm, Hamm-O-Rama at the Joe Patten Residence in the Fox Theatre**
- **April 21, 2013, (Sunday) 3:00 pm, Chapter Meeting with Gene Stroble at the McKoon residence**
- April 29, 2013, (Monday) 7:00 pm, "Monday Night Is Music Night", A show of pops and standards featuring John Clark McCall at the Allen 317 theatre organ with guest pianist Larry Davis. Maguire Center, Westminster Oaks, 4449 Meandering Way, Tallahassee, FL 32308; 7:00 pm, Free Admission. (850-878-1136)
- May 19, 2013, (Sunday) 2:30 pm, John McCall in Concert at the Forker Memorial Wurlitzer, Grace Baptist Church, 8000 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, FL 34241. Free Admission. (229-560-7540)



**President's Message**

As this March edition of the newsletter rolls around, we're now less than four months away from the start of "Here with the Wind" – the 2013 ATOS Annual Convention. It seems as if only yesterday we were having the initial planning meetings, and now the reality has almost arrived. Registrations are coming in at a steady pace and are well ahead of the numbers for Los Angeles at this same time last year. The Overture and Finale events have been very popular, with 77% and 68% attendance rates, respectively. The busses are filling up, and if you haven't registered, head over to [www.atosatlanta2013.org](http://www.atosatlanta2013.org) or check out the latest issue of *Theatre Organ* for all the details.

Last month we talked about the great progress being made on the Page installation at Stephenson High School. I'm pleased to report that February proved to be another busy month both in and out of the School. The console wiring is now complete, and the new programming will be in place later this month for testing and finalization. Once the Tuba chest returns from the shop, all manual chests in the main chamber are done!

The swell shades are receiving expert attention and the rebuilt motor assemblies are soon to be reinstalled. Four tremulants have been rebuilt, and the remainder should be complete in the next two weeks. We expect to wrap up much of the main chamber by month's end and turn our focus to the solo chamber. With upcoming choral and band programs at the school for which the organ has been requested,

we're pushing to have all of the main and most of the solo online and debugged by the first of May; at this point, we're right on track. As Ken mentions elsewhere in this newsletter, be on the lookout for a letter in your mailbox with details on one last push to help us "Turn the Page".

And if that news doesn't light your fire, we're all aglow to be able to return to the Fox and the exclusive residence of Joe Patten for another Hamm-O-Rama this month! Fun and entertaining don't even begin to describe these events, and being able to host it in this most unique venue takes the experience to a completely different level. Thank you so much, Joe, for having us back, and we're looking forward to seeing you on the 24<sup>th</sup>!

*Jim Stephens*

**Atlanta Chapter, ATOS - Membership Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own an organ? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, description \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Category** (check one):     Patron (\$300 and up)     Sponsor (\$200 - \$299)

Contributor (\$100 - \$199)     Donor (\$36 - \$99)     Basic (\$35)     Student (\$17.50)

Send Newsletter via email:     Yes     No

Please make check payable to **Atlanta Chapter, ATOS**

Mail to: Atlanta Chapter, ATOS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 426, Marietta, GA 30061-0426