

DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Senate Theater • 6424 Michigan Avenue • Detroit, MI 48210

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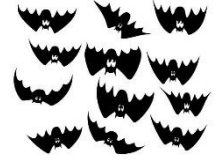
WHAT'S NEW?

Join us on October 26th. at 8 pm. For "Nosferatu" accompanied by our own Scott Smith. Wisbourg, Germany based estate agent Knock dispatches his associate, Hutter, to Count Orlok's castle in Transylvania as the Count wants to purchase an isolated house in

Wisbourg. They plan on selling him the one across the way from Hutter's own home. Hutter leaves his innocent wife, Ellen, with some friends while he is away. Hutter's trek is an unusual one, with many locals not wanting to take him near the castle where strange events have been occurring. Once at the castle, Hutter does manage to sell the Count the house, but he also notices and feels unusual occurrences, primarily feeling like there is a dark shadow hanging over him, even in the daytime when the Count is unusually asleep. Hutter eventually sees the Count's sleeping chamber in a crypt, and based on a book he has recently read, believes the Count is really a vampire or Nosferatu. While Hutter is trapped in the castle, the Count, hiding in a shipment of coffins, makes his way to Wisbourg, causing death along his way, which most attribute to the plague. Hutter himself tries to rush home to save his town and most importantly save Ellen from Nosferatu's imminent arrival. In Wisbourg, Ellen can feel the impending darkness as Nosferatu gets closer. But she learns that a sinless woman can sacrifice herself to kill the vampire. Will Hutter be able to save Ellen either from Nosferatu and/or her self-sacrifice?

Scott Smith is a native and lifelong resident of Lansing. In addition to concertizing and accompanying silent films, he also lectures about the pipe organ and his writings can be found on the pages of numerous pipe organ journals. In addition to participating in numerous other projects and events over the years, Scott is currently a member of and chairs the Organ Trustee Committee. Since 1978, he has accompanied numerous silent films from the console of our Mighty Wurlitzer.

THE HISTORY OF THE SENATE GROUNDS.

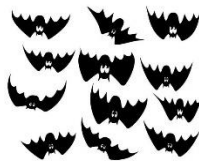


When you're down late at night playing the fabulous Wurlitzer have you ever heard "noises"? Rumor has it that the land that the Senate Theater now sits on was homesteaded by one Morton Gilbert and his wife Sara Gilbert ne Swanson in 1801. They had several children according to several decedents. Maybe as many as ten but this has yet to be confirmed by this author at the time of this writing. We do know that they included their first born, Harold, followed by Lloyd, Buster, Charlie, Douglas, Mary, Lillian, Snub, Gretta and Zasu. Along with Morton and Sara each of their parents, Steve and Edie Emrog, and George and Lacy Durns. They lived in a rather large for the time but basic clapboard type house of modest size much like the photo to the left. They mostly farmed and raised live stock for a meager living. Their land extended

from what is now Michigan ave. to the south, Livernois to the east, two blocks north of what is now I-94 and Martin street to the west. On the south side of Michigan was Tellways funeral home seen in the picture to the right just before demolition. Due to the Depression of 1807 they closed the funeral home and later the family opened a hamburger joint. Also, on the south side of Michigan nearer to Livernois was "Peoples" restaurant. Of course, back then the area was so remote it was called "Person". If you've ever been down to the Theater late at night practicing alone and you've heard "things", there may be a reason. The Depression of 1807, which lasted about three years, was the result of English trade



restrictions combined with the Embargo Act of 1807, which was passed under Thomas Jefferson as a means of preserving neutrality as tensions mounted between England and France. By restricting foreign trade, however, the United States



paralyzed its coastal economy and destroyed businesses. During this time Morton, in order to take care of his family had to start selling off his land. The portion that extends from Gilbert street to Cicotte was sold to Tellways funeral business for the use as a cemetery in the hopes it would bolster their business. It did for several years but ultimately the business failed. As the city expanded farther and farther out Woodward ave, Gratiot, Grand River and Michigan ave, it became apparent that the land the cemetery was on was quite valuable land. After much consternation, and the fact the Tellways funeral business had at this point closed and given up the ghost. (pun intended). it was decided to exhume the people and relocate them to another cemetery. They relocated all the deceased and their headstones to a nearby cemetery, but it was unclear if there were any remains that did not have a head stone. SOOO, Did they? Is it possible they missed a few? The next time you're down at the Theater alone in the evening and you hear an odd noise, ask yourself: Could it be? Makes you think, doesn't it?

Just kidding folks! (BOO)

Happy Halloween. See you at the Senate.



WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE ORIGINAL ROBERT MORTON INSTALLED IN THE SENATE THEATER?

We all know that our Theater was built in 1926. Some may not know that Our beloved opus 1954 Wurlitzer was not the first to fill the place with Theater organ music. The Theater originally had a Theater organ installed when it was built. It was manufactured by the Robert Morton Company out of California. It was a 2/7 model with 2 keyboards. It was played there by such organists as Marguerite Werner among others. Here's an article written by Dick Osgood back in the 50's.

"Had a sentimental twinge one morning last week as I watched WYX's pipe organ (the name WXYZ gave to the organ) hauled piece by piece into a moving van. It's going into the Our lady of

Fatima Church in Oak park—a gift from the station. Melvin Morehouse, technical director of WXYZ TV, has made an avocation of organs. He phoned James G. Riddell, President of WXYZ Inc. and said, "What are you going to do the pipe organ when the radio station moves to the new building at Joy and Greenfield roads?". Riddell said he hadn't decided, Why? "I'd like it for my church said Morehouse. "In



that case," said Riddell, "you can have it". The instrument was built originally for the Senate Theater on Michigan avenue. WXYZ purchased it, and radio listeners throughout Michigan heard it played by Marguerite Werner, Jack Franz, and Lou Betterly. Morehouse hopes to have the organ installed in the church by Easter—the organ that started in show business, went into radio, and finally "got religion". Nice progression for a beautiful instrument. Unfortunately, the organ was destroyed by fire the next year when the all wood church burned down. It did play for that one Easter Sunday though. The console might have looked something like this photo you see above. (Thanks to Scott Smith and Zachary Wojtan for the history) Great job guys.

OSGOOD OBSERVES:

WXYZ Organ Gets New Home

BY DICK OSGOOD

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MELVIN MOREHOUSE, technical director of WXYZ-TV, has made an avocation of organs. He phoned James G. Riddell, President of WXYZ, Inc., and said, "What are you going to do with the pipe organ when the radio station moves to the new building at Joy and Greenfield Roads?"

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min) Franz, and Lou Betterly.

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Whirling Voices

A vertible battery of radio personalities have been modeling and "pitching" the new cars at the Automobile Show.

Thousands of people have recognized them by their voices.

They include Maureen Bailey, John Beeman, Carl Cederberg, Mary Lou Cook, Minnie Jo Curtis, Bob Dale, Chuck Daugherty, Joe Van Donnich, Tom Dougall, Ralph Freeman, Don Karle, Ardis Kenealy, Art Lazarow, Connie Mavis, Shelby Newhouse, Joe Penberthy, Lee Rengers, Clark Reid, Fred Weiss, Rube Weiss, Bette Wright—and all these besides the disk jockeys.

And you want to know something? By now, they're almost too pooped to participate!

WHICH REMINDS me, Jack Surrell's fans had a shock Monday afternoon.

Don Ridler spieled before the big show of recording stars: "And ladies and gentlemen, your master of ceremonies today is none other than—JACK SURRELL!"

The curtain parted—and out walked—Joe Gentile of WJBK.

Ridler had not really made a mistake. Surrell was due, had been delayed, and—the show had to go on.

Joe filled in until Surrell arrived.

Low Down

Love this crazy business! Newscaster was comfortably seated at a studio table t'other night to give with the stuff.

When he got the red light to "go," it was quickly discovered that his microphone was dead—disconnected.

The only "live" mike in the studio was about 10 inches off the floor. With his script on the floor, the announcer aired the news on his hands and knees!

PROGRESS ON THE PARKING LOT EXPANSION.

After many, many months we are closer to expanding our parking lot all the way to Morton street. After a lot of work from Ed Garcia, Ian Gleespen and Kevin Werner all the hoops and barriers have been

jumped through or broken down. The gas was shut off, the electricity removed, and the water supply lines were eliminated. The house was torn down on Saturday October 12. A great day for the Senate Theater. Now comes the process of putting down the proper ground cover to prevent weeds and installing the gravel. And Then comes the moving of the fence. Again, a pricey proposition. And again, we ask for your support to help cover the cost. We estimate the fence project will be in excess of \$7,000. to \$10,000. The cost of the demolition has already been paid for by the generous donation of one of our members. Now we need to continue to receive generous donations from even more gracious members. Dig deep my friends because the Senate theater, home of the DTOS is on the rise and with your financial help there is no telling how far we can go and continue to spread the news about the wonders of the fabulous Theater Organ. After all, we have one of the best in the world.





Oct 26	\$10.00	8pm	“Nosferatu” (Silent). Scott Smith organist
Nov 2	\$5.00	8pm	“Blade runner”.
Nov 9	\$5.00	8pm	“Beyond the Ashes”
Nov 23	\$10.00	8pm	“Beyond the Rocks” (Silent). Lance Luce organist
Nov 30	\$5.00	8pm	“Modern Times”.
Dec 8	\$15.00	3pm	Pierre Fracalanza Christmas concert and goodie table.
Dec 14	\$5.00	4pm	“Mickey's Christmas Carol”/The Grinch who stole Christmas”
Dec 21	\$5.00	8pm	“The Miracle on 34 th street”.
Coming in 2020			
Lance Luce in concert. Date TBA			
Fatty Arbuckle Date TBA			
Metropolis Date TBA			
The General Date TBA			
And many more			

All concerts and silent movies are free to all playing and associate members. Members may bring up to three guests. General admission prices are \$5.00 for a standard movie, \$10.00 for a Silent movie and \$15.00 for concerts.

Don't forget at our annual holiday concert we have our traditional goody table. Bring your best holiday treats to share for our members and guests and let's show off.



**WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. QUESTIONS,
SUGGESTIONS. . . . WE EVEN TAKE REQUESTS!!
OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE HERE TO
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