

# The Strader Residence

## 3/18 Wurlitzer



*Strader Residence in Cincinnati. Note the organ chambers on the left.*



*Joan Strader at the 3/18 Wurlitzer.*

The year 1960 was a busy and exciting time for Mr. and Mrs. John J. Strader (Jack and Joan) of Cincinnati, Ohio. It was early in the year they learned from a friend, who was manager of one of the downtown theatres, that the first run movie theatre in Walnut Hills—The Paramount Theatre—might be closing. This came as quite a surprise to Jack. This suburban theatre had a pipe organ—a Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ! This was the instrument on which he learned to play. He never had a music lesson and did not read music.

Mrs. Howard Wurlitzer, daughter-in-law to Rudolph Wurlitzer, built the Paramount Theatre in 1930. The Wurlitzer factory saw to it that an outstanding instrument was installed in the theatre owned by Mrs. Wurlitzer—Opus 2151, Wurlitzer Style Balaban 3, originally a 3/15 instrument. The theatre was leased by RKO General Corporation.

A close friend of the Strader's, Richard C. Simonton, was most helpful in securing this instrument. Mr. Simonton was the one who helped to found the American Theatre Organ Enthusiasts, which later became known as the American Theatre Organ Society. By the spring of 1961 RKO decided to close the theatre due to a decline in attendance. Thanks to Dick Simonton's friend, Tom O'Neil, Chairman of the Board of RKO General Corporation, a meeting was

arranged between RKO and the Straders. Obviously it was a successful meeting.

Now came the task of packing the pipes, chests, relays, blower and moving them from the theatre to their new location—a private residence. Once the console and all components were safely stored at the new location the next job was to decide where the chamber would be located—its size and design. Once again thanks to Dick Simonton's good friend, Henry Pope, who entered the picture and designed the

*Relay room—blower room in back.*




chambers. Henry Pope installed all the studio pipe organs for CBS in Los Angeles. He also maintained many of the theatre instruments in the area.

While in New York meeting with RKO General to purchase the Wurlitzer, Dick Simonton introduced the Straders to Louis Ferrara and Ronald Bishop. They maintained the Wurlitzer organ at Radio City Music Hall. They assisted in removing the instrument from the Paramount Theatre and did the re-installation in the Strader residence.

At the beginning of this article it was stated that 1960 was a busy and exciting time for the Straders. September 11, 1960, a

Sunday, was the time a gathering of people took place at the apartment of Herb Wottle on Madison Road. The people who met were all theatre organ enthusiasts. The Ohio Valley Chapter of ATOS was formed that afternoon. Herb Wottle was elected first chairman; Pat Gillick was chairman the second year, Jack Strader, Vice-Chairman and Joan Strader, Secretary-Treasurer. All meetings for the next three years or so were held at the Strader residence.

The installation of the Paramount Theatre Wurlitzer in the Strader's Cincinnati, Ohio home was completed October 1961. Ron Wehmeier maintains the Strader organ. 

Top: Main Chamber; Below: Solo Chamber



## The Strader 3/18 Wurlitzer

### MAIN CHAMBER

Concert Flute through 16' Bourdon  
 Open Diapason through 16' Wood Diaphone  
 Tuba Horn through 16' Tuba  
 VDO  
 Viol Celeste  
 Clarinet  
 Vox Humana  
 Tibia Minor  
 Chrysoglott/Vibraphone

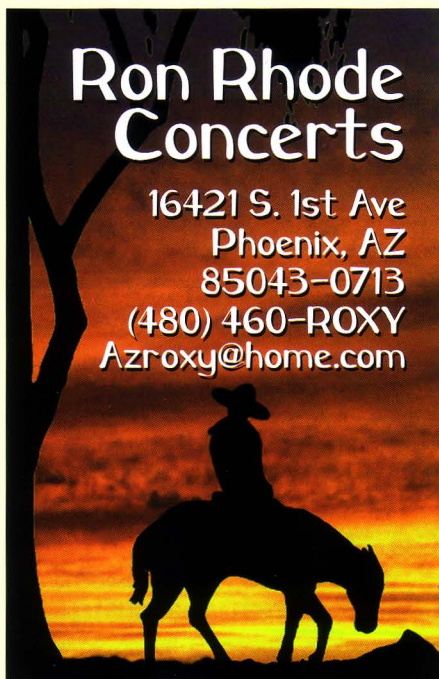
### SOLO CHAMBER

Tibia through 16'  
 Musette  
 Orchestral Oboe  
 Oboe Horn  
 Post Horn  
 Salicional  
 Quintadena  
 Brass Trumpet  
 Brass Saxophone  
 Kinura  
 Marimba  
 Glockenspiel  
 Xylophone  
 Chimes  
 Sleigh Bells  
 Toy Counter

Blower 10-hp Spencer, Organ Supply rectifier.  
 Original Wurlitzer relays and pneumatic console.

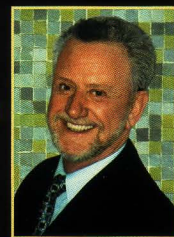
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