



COLUMBIA RIVER CLARION

Columbia River Theatre Organ Society



Randy Rock (1955 - 2013)

Contributed By John Seymour & Terry Robson

Randall Rock arrived in our world slowly but surely on Oct. 20, 1955. At the time his parents, Bill and Pat, had no clue of what a complex little person had entered their lives. When he first began to make sounds like real words, they made a sentence that sounded like “oo-ah-I-oo”, meaning “put that light on.”

Randy grew up on the family dairy farm in Oretown, near the central Oregon Coast. During his early years on the farm, Randy proceeded to “wire” every shed, chicken coop and barn, beginning with strings of old light fixtures and bulbs he had salvaged. By the time he reached school age, he had not only learned why and how many things worked, but had also taught himself to read. Farm life gave Randy a love of vintage trucks and tractors. A two-ton truck was his chosen transportation to high school. He passed his driver’s test by backing around the school building using the rearview mirrors. He loved to grow things and help with harvest, but never cared for milking cows or moving irrigation pipe.

After high school Randy continued his education at the University of Oregon specializing in Audio-Visual, along with his self-taught technical skills soon began working on campus as an audio-visual technician. Some of his favorite stories came from his time at the U of O. These stories were from all over campus, because he quickly became a “senior operator”, which essentially meant he was qualified to do any AV job on campus, from setting up a projector in a classroom, running multimedia presentations during orientation or running the sound system at Oregon basketball games.

When Randy moved to the Seattle area, he became involved with the Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society. He was the go-to guy for concert introductions, and gaudy sport jackets were his trademark. His favorites were the red and green ones, which he often alternated

during the same show. Another special jacket was his blue plaid, seer-sucker.

While in Seattle, and later Portland, Randy was always on hand at theatre organ events to help with projection, sound and lighting, often recording at various concerts. Randy was an authority on everything theatre; electrical systems, vintage sound systems, lighting and especially projection equipment. He was one of the few people still qualified to present *Cinerama* films, in which three synchronized 35mm projectors were used to create high-quality 3-D images on a wide, curved screen.

After college Randy continued in the AV field. He became involved in a number of different activities, such as restoration and maintenance of theatre organs and historic railway cars, and was always very involved at the churches he attended. Most recently he worshipped at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Vancouver. His many lifelong passions included audio-visual technology, railroads and farm machinery. Randy loved working to preserve and repair old railcars. He was an active member of volunteer organizations, including the Pacific Northwest chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, the Great Oregon Steam-up, Columbia River Theatre Organ Society and Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society. Randy also used his varied talents in museums, theater productions and many other places. Two favorite activities Randy looked forward to each year were the Oregon Rail Heritage Holiday Express and the Powerland Steam-up.

Randy often used vacation or weekend time to drive home to Cloverdale and help haul hay or help with some other task. When Randy’s father chose to stop hauling hay, Randy was there for the final trip.

To Randy, helping others came before his own needs. Helping others was a privilege as much as an obligation. Working on aircraft carriers, expensive home theaters, hospitals, churches or a child’s broken toy, all received the same honor and respect. Randy could be opinionated, but that was because he cared about whatever he was engaged in doing and the people he was helping.

Although Randy often worked in the background, his impact on those of us who knew him was anything but small. He was solid and dependable, but also quick with a smile, a one-liner or the chortle we all knew well. In the last month, his family has repeatedly heard from relatives, friends, and acquaintances about the positive impact that Randy had on their lives. It’s never easy to say goodbye to a friend, a son, a brother, an uncle...and less still when the departure is so sudden.

Although Randy left us far too soon, he passed on to us his own special kind of light. A light which helps us remember the good times and memories we all had with Randy and was also there to remind us to help others and have a passion for what we set out to do. Randy’s light will continue to shine in all of us.

Directors (Current Term)

President

Max Brown (2014)
president@crtos.org

Vice-President

Stuart Hall (2015)
vicepresident@crtos.org

Treasurer

Lou Paff (2014)
treasurer@crtos.org

Secretary

Mike Bryant (2014)
secretary@crtos.org

Directors

Jonas Nordwall (2015)
Bo Vernier (2015)
Rob Kingdom (2016)
Richard Lawson (2016)
Gary Nelson (2016)

Activities

Terry Robson

Communications

Carol Brown
carolmaxb@comcast.net

Webmaster

Paul Tichy
webmaster@crtos.org

Newsletter

Steve Jarvis
newsletter@crtos.org

Monthly Board Meeting

4th Tuesday of the month

All members are encouraged to attend the monthly board meeting. It is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at Izzy's Restaurant located at the Gateway Shopping Center (1307 NE 102nd. Ave, Portland, OR). Meeting begins at 7 pm. No-host dinner at 6:30.

The Columbia River Theatre Organ Society is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to the preservation of the theatre organ and its music.



Minutes of the CRTOS Annual Business Meeting

Saturday, April 27, 2013
First United Methodist Church

Regular members present: Jerry Hertel, Robert Kingdom, Richard Lawson, Lou Paff, Stuart Hall, Mike Bryant In the absence of President Jack Powers, the meeting was chaired by Stuart Hall. In the absence of Secretary Max Brown, minutes were taken by Mike Bryant. A quorum being present, acting Chairman Stuart Hall called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business to come before the membership.

NEW BUSINESS: The first order of new business was election of directors. Jack Powers, Paul Tichy, and Rob Kingdom are leaving the board as their terms have expired, and Bob Hinson (elected in 2013) has been removed as a director. There being fewer candidates than openings, the membership was asked to approve the slate presented by the nominating committee, consisting of Mike Bryant (two-year term), Gary Nelson, and Richard Lawson. As required by the bylaws, one outgoing director will remain on the board until such time as a replacement is named.

MOVED (Bryant) to accept the slate of candidates as presented. Motion CARRIED on unanimous voice vote.

The treasurer's report was presented.

There being no further business to come before the membership, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 am. The meeting was conducted under Robert's Rules of Order Mike Bryant acting as Parliamentarian

Minutes of the CRTOS Board Meeting

April 23, 2013

Directors Present: Stuart Hall, Rob Kingdom, Jack Powers, Paul Tichy, Bo Vernier Directors Absent: Max Brown, Jonas Nordwall, Lou Paff Guests Present: Mike Bryant, Steve Jarvis, Richard Lawson, Gary Nelson President Jack Powers called the meeting to order at 7:13pm The minutes from the March meeting were approved as published. In the absence of the secretary, Mike Bryant is recording the minutes. In the absence of the treasurer, Jack Powers presented the treasurer's report.

Old Business:

Our share of the revenue from the silent films amounted to just under \$600. Although we ran the series at a loss, the Hollywood is enthused about the audience numbers and is hopeful that we will continue. Our ticket sales amounted to approximately 50% of our expenses, which is higher than the typical ratio for similar types of performances. '

The summer party will be combined with the ATOS Summer Youth Adventure, and held at First United Methodist Church. Richard Lawson will coordinate.

The organ speakers have been moved into the main chamber, and the solo speakers are scheduled to be moved Wednesday, April 24. Following the move, the organ will require tonal finishing again, but we believe the sound will be considerably improved. New cabling has been run to the solo chamber, and part of the project will involve tidying up the cable terminations in the amplifier rack.

New Business:

The International Youth Silent Film Festival will be held at the Hollywood May 21 - 23, 2013. We encourage all members to attend and support the Hollywood, the IYSFF and, of course, CRTOS.

The board expressed their appreciation to Jack Powers for the accomplishments under his leadership for the last two years. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

The Hollywood Theatre Gets Digital

You may remember a couple issues ago I discussed the lack of digital projection system and how it affected our Silent Oscars film series. Well, the Hollywood Theatre is now set to enter the next generation in cinema! Thanks to grants from several area foundations and funding generated by the theatre and its board, the Hollywood has raised \$161,650 to convert to industry compliant HD Digital Cinema Projection systems. It's perhaps the biggest change in the movie industry since the transition from silent films to talkies.

Upgrading the projection systems to meet these new requirements was well beyond their operating budget and the theatre wishes to thank all of the funders who made this possible, including the M.J Murdock Charitable Trust (\$70,000), the Oregon Arts Commission (\$30,000), The Oregon Community Foundation (\$20,000), the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation (\$15,000), the Collins Foundation (\$15,000), the Jackson Foundation (\$3,500) and the Hollywood Theatre Board of Directors (\$8,150).

Fortunately, film lovers will not be left in the dark. They plan to keep their beloved 35mm film projection in two auditoriums, add a new 16mm projector in one auditorium, and upgrade projectors in the main auditorium to screen 70mm prints.

Annual ATOS Summer Youth Adventure Combined CRTOS & OCATOS Summer Party Friday July 26th 5:30 pm

This year the Annual ATOS Summer Youth Adventure will be held here in the Portland area! It makes good sense to have it here because Jonas Nordwall and Donna Parker are core faculty members and live right here. Jelani Eddington and Martin Ellis are also core faculty, and this year John Ledwon will also be a visiting instructor.

Both local chapters of ATOS, Columbia River Theatre Organ Society and Oregon Chapter of ATOS, will be hosting and helping with transportation and other needs as they arise. One of the things that our chapters will do is to host a banquet for all the participants of the Summer Youth Adventure on Friday, July 26th.

A very nice meal has been planned for not only the participants of Summer Youth Adventure, but also for members of CRTOS and OCATOS at a very reasonable cost so that everyone can come! We really want all of you to come and give a warm welcome and encouragement to the youth that are participating! Following dinner, you will in turn be treated to a program by all 16 youth participants on the Collins pipe organ in the sanctuary at First United Methodist Church in Portland.

This banquet is going to be at First United Methodist Church in a kitchen/reception area. We would like everyone who is coming to arrive around 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Afterward, we'll go to the sanctuary where there will be award presentations and the program on the pipe organ by the youth. This should be a real treat for us!

Due to the nature of hosting a banquet, RSVP is a MUST. Call Terry Robson at 503-233-7274, be sure to leave a message, or email at robsont@aol.com.

There's Something Different Going On Here...

You may notice this issue looks VERY different than those that came before. There are a couple reasons for that. The primary reason is I've been looking for a way to produce this newsletter that will allow other editors to follow me without having to buy very expensive software. The previous issues have been put together using Adobe InDesign which costs about \$1000 to buy. I'm assuming no one else except perhaps our local Journal Staff have access to this kind of software.

I've been considering the options for a while now and finally settled on Google Docs. As I've learned with this issue... there are some tricky things I've had to adapt to. I hope the next several issues will allow me to shake the bugs out and polish off the template so that anyone with access to G-mail and a computer could produce the newsletter painlessly.