

**AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
RED RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER**

Volume 12, Number 1

September, 1995

Come, Celebrate With Us!!!

50th ANNIVERSARY

of the

Red River Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

Sunday, September 17, 1995

4:00 P.M.

Messiah Lutheran Church

2010 North Elm

Fargo

Music - Nostalgia - Fellowship



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FROM THE DEAN

As Mother Nature hands us off to cool evenings, and Summer is wrested from our grip, we give in to the beginning of another school year. And even though I, personally, was not finished with Summer, I look with anticipation toward the schedule that becomes the norm, where a routine is recognized.

Many of you are still in the process of "shifting gears" between Summer activities and the Fall routine. New memberships and renewals total 69 as this newsletter is written, which is very good--comparable to where we were last year at this time. But we are still waiting to hear from some of you. The end of September is a deadline that the National Guild sets to insure you that your membership status and subscription to The American Organist continue uninterrupted. Membership forms were in last month's newsletter--call me if you have mislaid it. We still welcome all "old" and any "new" members. By being a part of the Red River Valley Chapter, you continue to carry on what was begun by our charter members fifty years ago, and you will perpetuate AGO ideals into the 100th year. So, let's hear from you!

A special thanks to **Brad Steen**, who, as Treasurer, has been extremely busy processing memberships, and has also produced a wonderful new 50th Anniversary Yearbook. The Yearbooks will be available beginning at the Celebration on the 17th.

We hope you will make every effort to be in attendance at the **Anniversary Celebration** at Messiah Lutheran this Sunday. As current members, we will acknowledge the presence of former members who carried the Chapter forth through the first 50 years. We will recognize where we have been and look toward the future. This would be a perfect time to bring family, friends, and your pastor along.

Included in this issue is a page of our programs for the year. Post it in an obvious spot for your easy reference. Maybe your church secretary could be given a copy so she could make timely announcements in the monthly newsletter and Sunday church bulletin. Our word would travel even further with your individual help. Let your people know of your involvements and how they benefit. All our programs are open to the public and your congregation should be invited.

There is much information in this issue of **Pipeline**. I hope you will take the time to read and stay informed. Our programs are planned for **you** and we hope you will support them. The business is conducted at monthly board meetings and reported to you here. Some longer range plans will begin to

take up some time at the board meetings as your elected officers define specific goals and challenges appropriate for our Chapter. We have the numbers, we have the leaders, we have the resources to grow into the second fifty years. We will keep you informed of the challenges ahead.

I'm looking forward to serving the Chapter as Dean for the second year; I am charged by the individuals who have accepted positions of leadership within the Chapter and continually provide creative ideas and positive reinforcement to each other. And to those of you whom we do not know well, I hope you will make yourselves known by coming to programs and introducing yourselves. This organization is for you, and your needs and ideas are important.

"A hundred times a day I remind myself that my inner and outer life are based on the labors of others..., living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the same manner as I have received and am still receiving."

Albert Einstein

Marlys

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Here it is--our **50th Anniversary Issue!** You have probably noticed changes in **type**, format, cover, etc., over the past year. My hope is that you enjoy each issue as much as I do getting it to you.

I must thank many who have given extra special help: **Mary Tangen**, former Editor; **Carolyn Hensrud**, who prints labels for every issue; **Marlys Herring**, for much news and for help getting each issue to the post office. Special thanks to the "crew" who helped get out the massive mailing last month: **June Boyd**, **Marlys Herring**, **Jay Hershberger**, **Mike Olson**, and **Brad Steen**. Very special **THANKS** to our many **advertisers!** Thanks, also, to many who have contributed articles and information this past year. And finally, thanks to my wife, **Mary Claire**, for her help and support.

Be sure to read the September **TAO** to learn "everything you ever wanted to know" about the Centennial Convention in New York City next July. As someone remarked: "Read, and make your plans! (And get your Sub early!)"

DEADLINE for October **PIPELINE**: October 6th.

**MINUTES/EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
RED RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER, AGO**

Tuesday, September 5, 1995, 5:15 P.M.

Saint Joseph's Church, Moorhead

Present: Joan Bystol, Bob Hachmeister, Marlys Herring, Jay Hershberger, Bradley Steen, Mary Tangen, Mavis Tjon.

Dean Marlys Herring presided. Minutes were accepted as printed in the August Pipeline. Treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$2,355.51. Report accepted.

Business: No formal action was taken on any item presented. However, discussion involved several issues, including: 1) paying the registration for a chapter representative to the national convention in New York, July 7-11, 1996; 2) inaugurating an endowment fund or some other type of financial security for the RRV Chapter; 3) possible remuneration for performances; 4) the logistics of the "Messiah" sing-along in December.

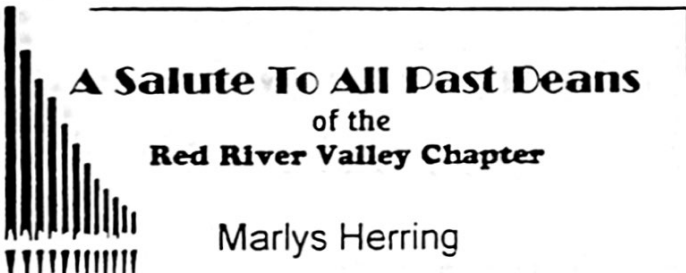
Committee Reports: 1) **Yearbook:** progress indicates that all should be ready for the September 17th meeting. 2) **Membership:** Brad reported 54 renewed or new memberships. 3) **Program:** The 50th anniversary program for September 17th, Joan Bystol, chair, was reviewed.

Other: 1) 2001: Will we host the regional convention? Would the chapter be interested enough to pursue the matter? 2) Does the chapter have goals toward which we are working?

The next Board Meeting is Tuesday, October 3, at 5:15 P.M., Pontoppidan Lutheran Church, Fargo.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Tangen, secretary



*** * 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION * ***

On Sunday, September 17, 1995

the RED RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

of the American Guild of Organists

will celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

This significant event will take place at

Messiah Lutheran Church, Fargo,

at 4:00 P.M.

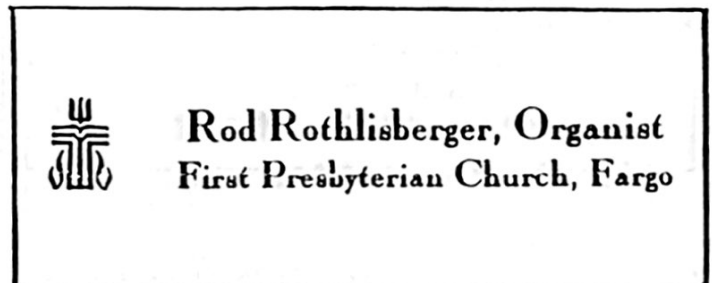
A presentation by Norman and Mercedes Roos will trace the growth and development of our Chapter over the last 50 years, and its influence on church music in the Red River Valley. Rod Rothlisberger will address the future: "Where Do We Go From Here?"

Performances by Carolyn Hensrud, June Boyd, Michael Olson, Peter Nygaard, and the AGO Handbell Choir will enhance the program.

Cake and coffee will be served, providing an opportunity for fellowship and enjoying a peek at some old photos and program bulletins saved over the years.

Everyone is invited!!

Joan Bystol, chairperson



THE FIRST RRV - AGO MEETING

After some discussion in **The Pipe Organ Group**, which was one of several smaller groups meeting within the **Fargo Music Club**, and after some guidance and encouragement from the National American Guild of Organists, the **Red River Valley Chapter** was organized. Mrs. Bruno Vassel, whose father, S. Lewis Elmer, was Warden (President) of the AGO at the time, took charge at the September meeting in 1945.

Information gathered from old Minutes lists these first members and officers:

Dorothy Deems . . . Dean
Leif Christianson . . . Sub-Dean
Vincent Dodge . . . Treasurer
Edith Cleveland . . . Corresponding Secretary
Betty Mark . . . Registrar
Laura Campbell . . . Program Chair

Viola Anderson
Ruth Berge
Joseph Black
Mrs. R. R. Hartwell
Mrs. R. P. Krueger
Gertie Lobben
Mrs. Oscar Moore
Clara Pollock
Mrs. Hilder Shaw
Hazelle Stalheim
Rose Teichmann
Mrs. Hugh Wright

Annual membership lists were not always kept early on; however, names appeared in Minutes. Some names that we know well and the year they first appeared are: Lloyd Collins ('52), Roy Stahl ('52), Marge Gagstetter ('53), Ruth Fossum ('53), Wendell Buckley ('55), Mercedes Roos (early '60's), Gaylord Fagerland (mid '60's), Peter Nygaard ('67), Phil Felde ('71), Solveig Bartz (early '70's), Lance Johnson (early '70's), Norma Halverson (early '70's), Joan Bystol (mid '70's), Judy Sanders ('74). From this point on, most of the names are people who are still members.

We salute those among us who have supported and contributed to the growth and strength of our Chapter for many years!

For more information about advertising in the PIPELINE, call Bob (218-236-7093 or 218-236-5066). We offer rates for the year or by the month.

NATIONAL AGO GREETINGS

"On behalf of the Officers and National Council of the Guild, I extend our heartiest congratulations to the Red River Valley Chapter as you celebrate your Fiftieth Anniversary.

"How rewarding it is to recall past accomplishments and contributions of your chapter members to the cause of good music; and how exciting it is to look forward to the future and to continued success during the next fifty years!

"We wish you well in your festivities and send warmest personal greetings to all."

Sincerely,
Margaret Kemper, President
American Guild of Organists

AGO BELL CHOIR

Our own Chapter Bell Choir has already begun practicing for the year, with the first appearance scheduled for the Anniversary Celebration at Messiah Lutheran on September 17th. Joan Bystol continues into her second year as Director, and Messiah Lutheran has graciously granted the use of their facilities and bells.

Ringling in the choir will be members June Bailey, Sandra Fiechtner, Vern Gessele, LuAnn Haugen, Carolyn Hensrud, Marlys Herring, Cindy Hershberger, John Jahr, Dorothy Koopmann, Trevor Lee, Judy Sanders, and Brad Steen.

Be sure to see pages 28 and 94 of September TAO

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American Guild of Organists

Red River Valley Chapter

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95-96 PROGRAMS

"Our 50th Anniversary Year"

- Sept. 17 Chapter 50th Anniversary Celebration
4:00 program, reception following
Messiah Lutheran Church, 2010 N Elm St., Fargo
- Oct. 29 Advent/Christmas Music By Members
4:00 Trinity Lutheran Church, 210 S 7th St., Moorhead
- Dec. 3 2nd Annual Community Messiah Sing-Along
6:00 rehearsal, 7:00 performance
First Presbyterian Church, 7th St. & 2nd Ave. N., Fargo
- Feb. 3 "The Current State of the Arts in Worship"
Panelists: Dr. David Childs, Rene Clausen, David Hetland
- held in conjunction with F/M Communiversitry
1:30-3:30 Gethsemane Cathedral, 3600 S. 25th St., Fargo
- Mar. 17 "Robert in Italy" - travelogue by Hachmeister
4:00 St. Joseph's Church, 10th St. & 3rd Ave S., Moorhead
- April 18 David Higgs Organ Recital
Questions and answers with the artist will
follow immediately after the recital.
7:30 Location TBA
- April 19 David Higgs Masterclass
(Sponsored by Concordia College Music Department)
10:00-12:00 Noon Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead
-

All programs are open to the public. The "Messiah" tickets are \$4.00 for adults, \$1.00 for students; charge for the Communiversitry class, and ticket prices for the Higgs Recital, TBA. 218-233-9744

"DATES OF NOTE" CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 17 RRV-AGO 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, MESSIAH LUTHERAN, 2010 ELM ST., FARGO, 4:00.

September 14-17, 21-24 "Totally Necessary Men," F-M Community Theatre, 8:00, 2:00 (Sundays). For ticket information, call 701-235-6778.

September 22-23 F-M Ambassadors Barbershop Chorus Annual Concert, Festival Hall, NDSU, 7:30.

October 5 Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company, Dille Center for the Arts, MSU, 8:00.

October 8 Organ Dedication Concert, Frank Winkel, organist, Saint Francis, Brainerd, MN, 3:00.

October 8 Organ Concert, Michael Olson, organist, 125th Anniversary Celebration at Eksjo Lutheran Church, Highway 10, East of Hawley, MN, 4:00.

October 11 Slide Hampton & The JazzMasters: Big Band Bird - 75th Birthday Celebration of Charlie Parker, Dille Center for the Arts, MSU, 8:00.

October 14-15 "A Symphonic Space Odyssey," Fargo/Moorhead Symphony Pizza Pop Concert, Festival Hall, NDSU, 7:00 (14th), 2:00 (15th).

October 15 Organ Concert, Lloyd Collins, organist, Olivet Lutheran Church, Fargo, 4:00.

October 28 F-M Symphony with Alexander Toradze, pianist, Festival Hall, NDSU, 8:00.

October 29 Advent/Christmas Music by RRV/AGO Members, Trinity Lutheran, Moorhead, 4:00.

November PAUL MANZ coming to Grand Forks (more information in October PIPELINE).

ON GETTING YOUR MONEY'S WORTH

from The Coupler

At this time of year when dues renewals have gone out for AGO membership, some of our members may wonder whether they are really getting their money's worth for annual dues of \$67.

Because most of my professional life is spent on nonmusical matters, I think I can address this question with some certainty.

In addition to the AGO, I belong to two professional groups for writers and two professional graphic design organizations. My dues for these groups ranges from \$35 to \$200, about half of which are paid by my employer.

What do I get for my money? From the two writers' groups I get monthly newsletters and opportunities to attend programs for free or for relatively modest fees. One has a job bank that charges rather substantial fees for referrals.

The national design organization has the highest dues; I do get a periodic newsletter and a cloth-bound annual book. Chapter program fees average around \$15. The local design group has dues of \$125; I get an occasional newsletter, an infrequent magazine, and the opportunity to attend programs for fees averaging \$15.

For my AGO membership I get an outstanding monthly magazine, the opportunity to attend programs that mostly are free of charge and a newsletter (whose value I can't assess impartially because I produce it.)

Bottom line: AGO membership is the best value among all the professional groups to which I belong. If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to renew your AGO membership today!

---David K. Krohne

Editor's note: The article above, from the District of Columbia Chapter, came through the "grapevine" to Linda Duckett, our Regional Councillor, then via a communique to our Dean, Marlys Herring, then to me. "Bottom line": as organists/church musicians, we are fortunate indeed to belong to AGO!

AGO CENTENNIAL - NEW YORK - JULY 1996

SPOTLIGHT ON LONGEVITY

No one has had more influence on the organ community in Fargo/Moorhead than **Ruth Berge**. And that is indeed an understatement. As instructor and mentor, her influence is far-reaching as her students have filtered out into the country. For a lady of small stature, Ruth leaves a huge footprint and a legacy in her students that is beyond containment.

When she was 13 years old, Ruth H. Berge began playing organ for Sunday School at First Lutheran Church in Fargo, where her father was minister. She studied piano and organ with the church organist, Edith Garnaas, who taught at the Concordia Conservatory. When Ruth was a senior in high school, she assumed full responsibility as organist at First Lutheran. While a student at Concordia College, she continued as organist, studying each summer at the American Conservatory in Chicago with Frank Van Dusen.

Upon graduation from Concordia, Ruth earned her Master of Music degree with a major in organ from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor studying with Palmer Christian. The following year found her teaching organ, piano, and theory at Parson's College in Fairfield, Iowa.

In 1945, Ruth returned to Concordia College to teach organ, piano, and theory and continued in that position until retirement in 1988. During those 43 years, she received a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Norway.

Her advanced studies read like a "Who's Who of the Organ World." Continuing education included summers at Syracuse University with Arthur Poister, University of Minnesota with Heinrich Fleischer, Union Theological Seminary, Southern Methodist University with Robert Anderson, and Northwestern

continued...

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SPOTLIGHT ON LONGEVITY

University with Karel Paukert. European studies included the International Summer Academy for Organists, 1966, at Haarlem, Holland, with Marie Claire Alain, and the International Organ Course, 1977, at Romainmotier, Switzerland, with Guy Bovet and Lionel Rogg.

Ruth served as organist at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead from 1958 to 1981. She was a charter member of the Red River Valley Chapter, AGO, serving as Dean numerous times. Ruth has maintained full membership, consistently, for all fifty years! As far as we know, she is our only direct link through the entire history of the Chapter. Not only is Ruth the backbone of the organ community, she defined it! Throughout the years she was instrumental in bringing the finest recitalists to town for performances and masterclasses, and made manifest the ideals of the National organization: to set and maintain high musical standards and to promote understanding and appreciation of all aspects of organ and choral music.

Ruth is tireless in her enthusiasm for her profession and has inspired hundreds of students. Her impact in our community was heightened by her lifetime commitment to Concordia, and the nurturing environment of Fargo/Moorhead and the greater Midwest.

Please, a standing ovation for Ruth H. Berge!!



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NEWS FROM M P R

Brian Graftaas is the new Director of Development for MPR stations KCCM/KCCD and KQMN/KNTN, succeeding Vern Goodin, the new General Manager.

A Prairie Home Companion begins its new season on October 7th. A special program on "Wedding and Funeral Music" will be broadcast October 14th. Tune in Saturdays at 5:00 on KCCM 91.1 FM, or on Sundays at 6:00 P.M. on KCCD 90.3 FM.

MORE ON PORTLAND CONVENTION

In the Lincoln, Nebraska chapter newsletter, Chiff Chat, members Marge and Dale Underwood offer their reflections on the Region VIII Convention, which they attended. Besides having President Clinton and Vice-President Gore spend a night at their hotel, they highlighted concerts, artists, worship opportunities, and a theatre organ concert at the Organ Grinders pizza parlor, where organist Don Feely submitted his "Top Ten" List.

Top Ten Signs You May Be Addicted To The Organ

- * You plan your whole summer vacation around some silly organ convention in Portland, Oregon.
- * Your garage is full of old Diapason and American Organist magazines because you know there is an article there you will need some day.
- * You walk around the house humming catchy little tunes from the 17th century.
- * You scout out shoe stores all over town to find a shoe with just the right heel.
- * You annoy passengers in your car by naming the make and size of organs in every church you pass.
- * You attend a wedding at an unfamiliar church and spend the whole ceremony going through their hymnal.
- * You could be in your bed at a hotel, but instead you are listening to some idiot trying to play the theatre organ at 11:00 at night.
- * You plan to attend a boring Pacific Rim Economic Conference just so you and the Vice-President can hang out with AGO members at the Benson Hotel.
- * Two words you love: CRESCENDO PEDAL!!!

HAVE YOU RENEWED
YOUR MEMBERSHIP

WEDDING BELLS RING FOR PIPE ORGAN AND COMPUTER

The final phase in the renovation/restoration of the 1965 III/32 Moller pipe organ at Olivet Lutheran has been completed. The Allen MDS Expander II has been added, which features 100 stunningly realistic voices (65,000 bytes per second), including solo and ensemble instruments and a wide variety of classical organ sounds. The pipe organ originally cost \$45,580.00; today's replacement cost would exceed \$200,000.00. The cost of the Allen MDS Expander II was \$6,000.00.

On October 15th at 4:00, **Lloyd Collins**, organist at Olivet Lutheran, will present a recital/demonstration integrating many of the new voices into the interpretation of standard organ repertoire. The public is invited. There will be a free will offering. Olivet is located at 1330 So. University Dr., Fargo.

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EKSJO LUTHERAN ORGAN CONCERT

Michael Olson will be the recitalist at the kickoff event of a year of festivities marking the 125th anniversary of Eksjo Lutheran. Mike returns by popular demand on October 8th at 4:00 to play the 1950 Reuter pipe organ. The Johnson Organ Company has completed some additional work on the 12-rank instrument. Mike's program will include works by Mendelssohn, Franck, Weaver, Behnke, and others. A supper will be served.

Located on highway 10 East of Hawley, Minnesota, Eksjo Lutheran has been lovingly cared for and attended by one of the oldest congregations in the area. Donald Homme is pastor of the 300 members and Mercedes Roos is organist. Originally founded by Swedish immigrants, it maintains its proud and picturesque setting surrounded by trees on a carefully manicured hill for all passersby to enjoy. The public is cordially invited to share in the scenic colors of Autumn, the music, and the celebration.

ORGANIST POSITIONS OPEN

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Moorhead is looking for an organist. The instrument is a 19-rank Kilgen in good acoustics. Responsibilities include two Sunday services and Choir rehearsal. Position is available immediately. Salary is negotiable, based on education and experience. Call 218-233-7569 for more information.

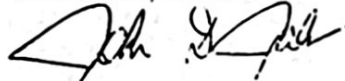
Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, is looking for a worship accompanist. Must be proficient in keyboard skills on piano and organ. Responsibilities include accompanying Senior Choir and Worship Services each week. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resume and letter of application by September 30th to church at 1401 Madison Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501.

TREASURER'S REPORT '94-'95

Checkbook Balance 7/1/94	\$1,393.44
Income	
Dues '94-'95	\$3,749.00
Dues '95-'96 Prepaid	\$89.00
Donations with renewal notice	\$340.00
Hymn Sing Offering	\$205.06
Clausen Choral Reading	\$166.00
Handbell Choir Gelhsemene Engagement	\$100.00
N. Hanson gift for '95-'96 Recital	\$500.00
Grants	\$595.00
Newsletter Advertising	\$160.00
'94-'95 Fund Drive	\$755.00
Interest on Checking	\$35.96
Total Income	\$6,695.02
Expenses	
Dues to National '94-'95	\$1,766.00
Memorials	\$50.00
AGO Insurance Policy Donation	\$75.00
Clausen Choral Reading	\$713.79
Dean's Registration to Region VI Convention	\$195.00
Crookston Organ Spectacular	\$220.00
Messiah Sing-Along	\$592.67
Contribution-AGO Fund Drive	\$50.00
Handbell Music	\$67.20
Hymn Sing	\$750.54
Administrative	\$627.19
PO Box Rent	\$40.00
LAAC Dues	\$80.00
Fund Drive Printing and Mailing	\$570.10
Yearbook	\$260.74
Bulk Mail Renewal Fee	\$75.00
Newsletter	\$1,532.69
Dues to National '95-'96	\$36.00
Total Expenses	\$7,701.92
Ending Checkbook Balance 7/3/95	\$386.54

Respectfully Submitted,

John D. Jahr, Treasurer



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September 17 Organa Antiqua Italica... an introduction to the particular sounds of historic Italian organs and the styles of Italian music.

September 24 Spirits and Places... evocative pieces by Ernest Bacon, Percy Whitlock, and Joseph Bonnet: impressions of personalities, picturesque locales, and the mythic muse.

October 1 John Scott and the Choir of St. Paul's... concert and recorded performances by the young British virtuoso and the famous voices of London's historic cathedral.

Other October Programs... check The American Organist or Minnesota Monthly

PIPELINE
Newsletter of the
Red River Valley Chapter
American Guild of Organists
Fargo/Moorhead

Marlys Herring - Dean
Jay Hershberger - Sub Dean
Mary Tangen - Secretary
Brad Steen - Treasurer

Board Members:
'96 - Jerry Berg, Gary Thrasher
'97 - George French, Bob Hachmeister
'98 - Joan Bystol, Mavis Tjon

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