OCTOBER 1996 No. 3

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS CENTENNIAL 1996

UTAH VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

TRIBUTE TO J. J. KEELER

As many of you may know, J. J. Keeler passed away on Sunday, September 22, 1996; he was 83 years old. His funeral was held on September 25. Prof. Keeler led an active life to the end, doing the thing he loved most--teaching. He was a stable influence in our chapter and still taught each year at the Workshop on Church Music at BYU, in addition to teaching private students. Most of us started our organ experience using his beginning organ techniques book.

Prof. Keeler's dignity and wry wit will be missed. This faithful follower of Christ was an example to us all. His passing marks the end of an era.

Joseph Jensen Keeler

Joseph Jensen Keeler, 83, of Provo, a special father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, loyal friend, well-known teacher, colleague, and music educator, died Sunday, September 22, 1996, at the Utah Valley Regional Medical Center in Provo following a sudden illness.

Professor Keeler was born in Provo, Utah, July 3, 1913, a son of Major Joseph and Esther Reese Keeler. He married Virginia Bowles June 26, 1935, in Salt Lake LDS Temple.

He received his education at Brigham Young University from kindergarten through his master's degree. J.J. studied organ at BYU, at Salt Lake Tabernacle with Frank Asper and Alexander Schriner, at Chicago Musical College, at Leipzig Conservatory of Music with world-famous Karl Straube, and at Westminster Abbey with Ernest Bullock and Thalben Ball.

He formed the organ department at BYU, and functioned as its head for forty years. He continued to teach until his death. Hundreds of students learned musical performance under his tutelage. He shared his passion for Utah mining history with fellow history lovers. An ardent admirer of Albert Schwietzer, he was instrumental in local fund raising concerts and lectures for the benefit of Schweitzer's Hospital in Lambarene in French Equatorial Africa.

Countless recipients of unsolicited gifts will attest to Professor Keeler's personal love and concern. His example of Christian living is his greatest legacy.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia; his daughters, Kathleen (Floyd) Murphy, Mary Anne (Boyd) Jolley, Marie (Dale) Blanchard, Claudia (Richard) Pickering, Janice (Boyd) Butler; his son, Brent Keeler; 22 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, September 25, 1996, at 12 noon in the Provo 9th-19th Ward Chapel, 667 North 600 East, Provo. The family will greet friends Tuesday from 6-8:00 p.m. at the Walker Mortuary, 85 East 300 South, Provo, and Wednesday from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. at the ward chapel prior to the services. Burial will be in the Provo City Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the J.J. Keeler Organ Scholarship Fund at BYU.

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375-5691

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374-2595

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CHAPTER MEETING

In order not to add another meeting to our schedules this month, our chapter meeting will be the last event of the "Festival Organ" activities. We will meet at the Provo Tabernacle on Friday, October 11, at 7:30 p.m. to hear a lecture by Ron Poll and a recital by Melvin Dunn. The topic is "Meet the Organ Builder: A Discussion with Ronald Poll Concerning the Newly Built Organ in the Provo Tabernacle." This will be an opportunity to see how things have shaped up since our visit last year.

NEXT MONTH'S CHAPTER MEETING

Have you come up with an interesting/inspiring/ creative way of playing the hymns for prelude or postlude? If you're a ward organist, you've probably come up with something which you could share with the rest of us. You can either play it for us or just discuss it.

We're mainly looking for ideas to spark our imaginations. We would like to compile these ideas in a newsletter. For example, what hymns have you found that have a nice tenor line to solo out? Have you reharmonized a hymn? Do you have a theme or sequence of hymns that work together nicely? Have you added an obligato or other interesting harmony? Have you found some hymn arrangements that work well together? Etc.

You're a creative bunch out there, so please take a minute to devise something for our next chapter meeting. It doesn't have to be elaborate.

Be sure to contact DeeAnn Stone well in advance of the meeting, so we'll know how many would like to participate. We will be meeting on Tuesday, November 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the Provo Central Stake Center, 1200 W. 500 N. If nothing else, you may be curious to see the new carpet job. Wear purple! (Just kidding.)

LAST MONTH'S CHAPTER MEETING

This year's activities started off with a bang. Even the weather cooperated, giving us an evening free of thunder showers that had been threatening all day. For those of us who brought our families, it was an event our children won't forget. We appreciate Don Cook for letting us climb the long and winding stairs to the top of the BYU carillon tower to watch him play the bells. It was fascinating for all of us who hadn't seen close-up how this "tracker action" works to make the bells ring. The climb was worth it. He even let us sing along with his last number, "Hell's Bells"-- interesting experience.

We then went to the BYU Museum of Art. Doug Bush gave us an overview of the history of the organ before we saw the "Festival Organ" exhibit. The children especially enjoyed the exhibit. Where else could they be free to create so much noise or, excuse me, "music?" It was certainly an interactive exhibit for them and they interacted a lot.

This past month was certainly filled with a lot of organ-related activities. It was fascinating to see Michael Barone in person and to hear the wonderful recitals. We were truly blessed to hear such beautiful music, and we appreciate all those who shared their talents with us.

NATIONAL YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION

Enclosed is a copy from the September issue of "The American Organist" of the requirements for the National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance. If you know of a young organist (ages 22 to 32) who would be interested in participating in this competition, please pass this information on to them. This may also be of interest to younger organists to give them something to work towards.

OUT-OF-PRINT MUSIC LIST

If you would be interested having a copy of a 20-page list of out-of-print music that can be obtained from POMO DORO Publishers in Granite Quarry, North Carolina, contact Doug Bush, work--378-2317. He can copy it for you for about $.50.

VIDEOS

The chapter has copies of the videos "Voices in the Wind" and "Pulling Out All the Stops." If you would like to view either of these, please contact Larry Tomkinson or DeeAnn Stone to borrow them.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 3 (Sunday): "Musical Fireside," 7:00 p.m., State Hospital Chapel, 1300 E. Center, Provo

December 4 (Wednesday): Chapter get-together: Christmas dinner and humorous organist stories at the Moss's.

RECITALS

Fall organ recitals every Monday at the BYU Museum of Art from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

December 7 (Saturday) - Carol Dean, 7:30 p.m., Provo Central Stake Center, **Orgelbuchlein**--Advent to Christmas

Music for a Sunday Evening: Fourth Sundays each month, 7:00 p.m., State Hospital Chapel, 1300 E. Center, Provo

PROVO CENTRAL STAKE CONCERT SERIES

(Sundays at 8:00 p.m., 500 N. 1200 W.)

October 13 - Adults in Concert--Vocal Ensembles, **Back to the Traditional**

November 10 - Adults in Concert--Instrumental, **Classical,** includes some organ solos

December 8 - Christmas Concert--Ward Choirs, **Time-honored Sacred Carols,** 7:00 p.m.

PIPEDREAMS - KBYU-FM 89, Tues., 9:00 p.m.

INFORMATION FOR NEWSLETTER

Please contact DeeAnn Stone at 377-4728, or mail to 1510 W. 500 N., Provo, UT 84601.

In Memory of

Joseph Jensen Keeler

Born July 3, 1913 in Provo, Utah
Died September 22, 1996 in Provo, Utah

Funeral Service held Wednesday, September 25, 1996 at 12:00 p.m. in the Provo 9th-19th Ward Chapel located at 667 North 600 East Provo, Utah

PALLBEARERS

Perin Blanchard — *David Jolley*
Benjamin Butler — *Joey Jolley*
Christopher Butler — *Reid Murphy*
Paul Pickering

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Former students and colleagues

SERVICES

Presiding . . . . . *Bishop Thomas Lee*
Conducting . . . . . *Richard S. Pickering-Son-in-Law*
Prelude/Postlude . . . . . *David Pickering-Grandson*
Invocation . . . . . *Boyd Butler-Son-in-Law*
Musical selection . . . . . *J.S. Bach*
"Sheep May Safly Graze"
Flutes: Melissa Butler-Granddaughter
Carolyn Jolley-Granddaughter-in-Law
Family tributes . . . . . *J.J's Children*
Musical selection . . . . . *J.J Keeler*
"Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silent"
Dedicated by J.J to his daughters
David Pickering-Grandson-Organ
Student tributes . . . . . *Bonnie Goodlife*
Rulon Christiansen
Musical selection . . . . . *Family Chorus*
"Men are that They Might Have Joy"
Text: J. Marinus Jensen-Grandfather
Music: J.J Keeler
Closing remarks . . . . . *Richard Pickering*
Benediction . . . . . *Perin Blanchard-Grandson*

GRAVESIDE SERVICE

Provo City Cemetery
Provo, Utah

Musical selection . . . . . *W.G Tomer*
"God Be With You 'till We Meet Again"
French Horns: Duane Anderson, Barbara Johnson
Sonja Grey and Terry Lee
Dedicatory Prayer . . . . . *Scott Sandberg-Grandson-in-law*

Funeral Directors
Walker Mortuary of Provo

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UTAH VALLEY CHAPTER
Larry Tomkinson, Dean
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Provo, UT 84601