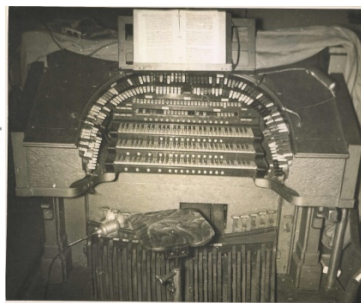
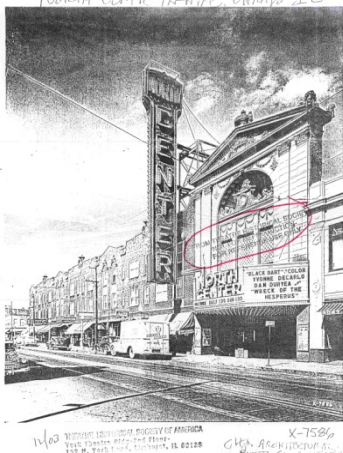


In 1975 the original Kimball theatre pipe organ, a 9 rank instrument with a three manual console was removed from the Leona Theatre in Homestead, PA.



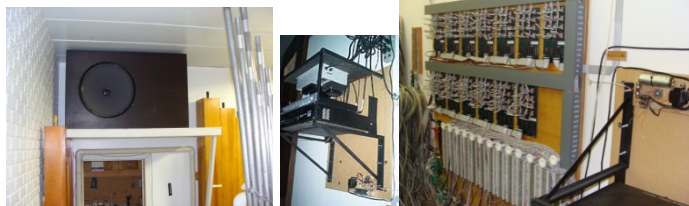
After considerable rebuilding, cleaning, restoring (all of the trap instruments drums cymbals had been stolen) and subsequent installation, the organ was playing the Markworth's previous home in late 1979. Over the following 20 years the organ was gradually increased in size to 15 ranks. In 1995 the Markworths built their current home with the thought of increasing the size of the organ a "bit" further. After going over the list of various ranks, it was determined the size would be 24 ranks with 6 - 16 foot stops consisting of: wood diaphone, tibia, bourdon, metal diaphone, tuba and string. To provide the correct number of stop tabs a larger console would be required.



A large 3 manual Kimball console was located originally built for Chicago's North Center Theater. Unfortunately the condition of the "new" console was deplorable. The rebuilding, building, refinishing the larger console delayed the completion of the installation of the organ about a year.



Due to the added wind needed for the additional ranks an additional 5 HP blower was required. The original nine rank electro-pneumatic relay was replaced with a Uniflex computer relay system. The new relay system permits flexibility in defining the console, as well as the ability to record and play back, via the computer, actual keyboard performances. The new relay also added MIDI capability to the console. Currently the console address 16 MIDI voices through MIDI and Selective stop tabs. The sound module for the MIDI is a Proteus 2000 with over 2400 voices available. A Voice Of The Theatre speaker is located in each chamber and driven by a 1000-watt amplifier.





Main Chamber

A 30 inch Rodgers sub woofer is located in the Solo chamber and is driven by a separate 350 watt amplifier. The Uniflex relay system worked flawlessly from the organs dedication in 2000. In 2008 a second piano (a Young Chang 6' Grand with a Piano Disc player system) was added to the organ, which necessitated an upgrade to the latest Uniflex system to allow record and play-back of both the organ and piano, during piano & organ duets.



The original Kimball piano (pressure action), along with the new (2008) grand piano are located in the listening room as is a second set of 25 note chimes and 30 note Rodgers orchestra bells.



Essentially the organ was completed in the spring of 2000. Ongoing "tweaking" of the organ will likely continue well into the future. Many man hours were required to get the organ into it present condition, clearly without the help of River City Theatre Organ "crew" the this installation would not have happened.

2008 article update:

As mentioned in the piece, over the last 9 years many changes have been made to the organ. Probably the most significant change was in 2002 the entire solo chamber was removed, all the manual chests replaced with rebuilt Kimball chest work. About a year later, under the direction of Ed Zollman a complete re-winding of both chambers was completed. Subsequently the organ has had many hours of tonal finishing and tweaking. Currently the organ has 7 solo regulators and 6 main regulators with 7 wickers in the overall organ. The organ has 11 tremols including one on the Posthorn.

The key ranks are either Wurlitzer or a Trivo duplicate, such as the tibias, voxes, sax, posthorn, orch-oboe, and tuba. The six ranks of strings are primarily Kimball as are the flutes, diapasons and kurna.

While I have no plans to enlarge the organ rank wise, additional will be in the form of unusual percussions and traps. The organ rivals most pizza organs with its large number of sound effects and percussions. One of the more recent additions was a Maas-Rowe 37 note Carillon; a computer controlled roll cymbal action and splash cymbal. Most recent addition is a 37 note wind chime has been added along with koo-koo bird action.

Over the future years, further refinement will be made to the organ to continue to make it the best it can be.

[e-mail Bob](#)