

## *Paramount Theatre Opening Night*

The Publix Logo projected on the curtain prior to today's concert is from the August, 1930 newspaper ad heralding the opening of Denver's Paramount Theatre. The ad reads, in part....

*"Nowhere in the world is there a theatre so modern... where the wonders of science, the genius of creation, the talents of the artisan have so perfectly united to make this truly, your THEATRE PERFECT!"*

### Calendar of Coming Events

#### *American Theatre Organ Society*

Information Line: 303-466-3330

Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2000 W. 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Federal Heights, Colorado

*The Holiday Hills Ballroom is home to a 4-manual/33-rank digital Wurlitzer*

More information and map at: [www.RMCATOS.org](http://www.RMCATOS.org)

**November 13<sup>th</sup>** – (Sun) – **"Got Gospel?"**

*RMCATOS artists*

Theatre organ, grand piano, vocal

Our annual Gospel (definition stretched just a little bit) romp

Holiday Hills Ballroom – 2 pm - Members no charge – Others, \$5

**February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012** – (Sun) – **"Pipes & Stripes VI"**

*The Mighty Wurlitzer's twin consoles & the 101<sup>st</sup> Army Band*

Theatre pipe organ, concert band, Dixieland Band

Denver Paramount – 2 pm – Public invited -- No charge

*(This is an RTD Senior Ride Event)*

Interested in more photos and info about RMCATOS?

Visit our web site: [www.RMCATOS.org](http://www.RMCATOS.org)

Check out our YouTube video clips.

[www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) then search on RMCATOS

*Note: The Paramount has recently installed new, efficient LED spotlights around the chandelier soffit in the ceiling above the auditorium and at the base of the drapes that cover each the pipe chambers. Be on the lookout for special lighting activity in all of those locations.*



*The Rocky Mountain Chapter American Theatre Organ Society*

*Presents*

# **Red, White & Blue Ragtime Revue**

*Featuring*

*From Boca Raton, Florida*

## **Dave Wickerham**

**At the Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ**

*and*

*Denver's Own*

## **Dick Kroeckel**

**At the Steinway Concert Grand Piano**

**Denver's Historic Paramount Theatre**

**Glenarm & 16<sup>th</sup> St. Mall**

**Sunday, October 16, 2011, 2 pm**

**[www.RMCATOS.org](http://www.RMCATOS.org)**

## *About the Artists*

**Dick Kroeckel**, an Indianapolis, Indiana native, has been a popular Colorado entertainer since he was 16 years old, when he began playing in mountain town saloons. While in the Army he played for Chapel Services and Special Services Productions, officer's clubs and the Fourth Army Entertainment Tours.

Returning to Colorado, Dick once again began entertaining in Georgetown at the Silver Queen and Red Ram. The Red Slipper Room in Denver's Cherry Creek Inn was a favorite spot for Denverites where they enjoyed Dick's talents for ten years.

In 1976 Dick was featured in a special for CBS by Charles Kuralt entitled "On the Road in '76". He also appeared in documentary movies on Tombstone, AZ and one for ITT. Dick has appeared regularly in Colorado at the Strater Hotel's Diamond Belle Saloon, Durango; the Glory Hole Saloon & Fortune Valley, Central City; the Phenix House, Cripple Creek; and in Deadwood, SD.

Dick is well known to Colorado audiences for his accompaniment of melodrama and silent films. He has released nine recordings.

When not traveling to perform, Dick operates a business restoring player pianos and orchestrions. A dedicated train buff, Dick will travel most anywhere to ride a train and when not working, cooking is a favorite activity.

**Dave Wickerham** was born in Encino, California in 1962. He began playing the electronic organ at the age of four, lessons started at age 7 and his first pipe organ experience was at age 10.

In 1976 he became Associate Organist at the famous Organ Stop Pizza Restaurants in Phoenix, Mesa and Tucson, Arizona. He attended the University of Arizona on a full scholarship, pursuing classical organ studies.

In 1984 Dave moved to the Chicago area to become Staff Organist at Pipes and Pizza in Lansing, Illinois. He concertized frequently as well as ministering musically and serving at various churches.

In 1990 Dave and family moved north to Wisconsin where he became Staff Organist at the Piper Music Palace in Greenfield (a suburb of Milwaukee).

In the Spring of 2000, Dave, wife Rhonda and their three children took an 18 month "sabbatical" from Wisconsin and moved to Las Vegas for a limited special engagement where Dave was featured theatre organist at "Roxys Pipe Organ Pizzeria" at the Fiesta Casino and Hotel.

After a short time back in Wisconsin at the Piper Music Palace Dave, in 2005, accepted the position that he has today: Resident Organist at the Milhous Collection and Museum in Boca Raton, Florida. He also continues to maintain an active concert schedule.

*CD's by Dave Wickerham & by Dick Kroeckel plus the first Commercial CD of the Denver Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer, "Paramount Double Bill", may be purchased in the lobby.*

*RMCATOS Membership information (\$15 / yr / household) and maps for the Holiday Hills ballroom are also available. (95% of our members are "listeners" and not performers.)*

## *About the Mighty Wurlitzer*

The Paramount Theatre was built for showing films. The Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ you will be hearing today (designed to accompany silent films) is the original instrument featured in the theatre's grand opening on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1930.

The Denver Paramount has a 4/21 Wurlitzer. Four keyboards (called manuals) and twenty-one sets of pipes (called ranks) in chambers located one- and two-stories above the audience, on either side of the theatre, behind the dark drapes. The pipe chamber lights have been left on so you may see, in action, the swell shutters that are used to control pipe volume.

In addition to pipes, a theatre organ also has tuned percussions: marimba, glockenspiel, etc.... and also a piano, drums, cymbals, a triangle, klaxon horn, fire gong, castanets and bird whistles!

The "Master" console is on the left and the "Slave" on the right. The only other theatre in the US with its original Wurlitzer twin consoles is Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

The Denver Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ is maintained by RMCATOS volunteers.