

Notes

1. Undated letter, circa 1954, from Frank Thompson to Tom Parkinson, Tom Parkinson papers, Circus World Museum; 1894 Ringling Bros. Route Book; *Topeka (KS) Journal*, June 27, 1894. A drawing for the Wurlitzer seal horn is in the author's possession.

2. There is Deagan coverage in *New Grove Dictionary of American Music*, (1986), Vol. 1, page 591; Hal Trommer, "John Calhoun Deagan," *Percussive Notes*, February 1996, page 84; *Manhattan (CA) Daily Breeze*, 1934 obituary; *Billboard*, May 12, 1934, page 30; *National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, (1961), Vol. XIII, pages 391-392; Dave Junchen, *Encyclopedia of the American Theater Pipe Organ*, Vol. II (1989), pages 843-864; and www.pas.org, the website of the Percussive Arts Society. These sources were augmented by personal contacts with Dr. James A. Strain of Northern Michigan University and Chuck Askins of Chicago, Illinois, who were very generous in their sharing of Deagan knowledge. Trommer's papers include some specific information unavailable anywhere else. He was a company salesman and apparently obtained details directly from Deagan or other documentary resources.

3. Dr. Strain's biography enumerates Deagan's noteworthy accomplishments. The Percussive Arts Society website, www.pas.org, is a rich source for gaining knowledge of the broad world of percussion instruments.

4. Michael Deagan family information can be found at a website established by descendant Tom Deagan, <http://home-pages.rootsweb.com/~vgdeagan/michael.htm>. It was supplemented by personal communications with him, for which the author expresses his grateful appreciation. Deagan has access to an 1886 memoir prepared by the youngest Deagan daughter, Frances. The author's analysis does not agree in all regards with the Deagan data as presented, but such differences are not uncommon in genealogical work. Census schedules for 1860, 1870, 1880 and 1900 were also consulted, kindly provided by Judy Griffin.

5. J. C. Deagan, *Fundamentals in Pitch and Tuning Musical Instruments* (1916), copyright copy at Library of Congress, courtesy Dr. James A. Strain.

6. 1889 St. Louis city directory listing and *Clipper*; May 18, 1889, page 170.

7. *Clipper*, May 18, 1889, page 170; December 20, 1890, page 652.

8. *Clipper*, May 11, 1895, page 156. The first Deltorelli brothers were Andrew and Joe, later users of the name were Max and Franz, all of whom appeared with Ringling Bros. by 1918 and later in Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows.

9. *Clipper*, March 26, 1910, page 157.

10. *Clipper*, March 30, 1912, pages 21 and 24; *Billboard*, April 6, 1912, page 60.

11. See Bart Hopkin, "Deagan Organ Chimes," *Experimental Musical Instruments*, XI, 2 (December 1993), pages 9-15, for additional coverage of the instrument technology.

12. *Clipper*, March 13, 1897, page 32; April 24, 1897, page 130; March 5, 1898, page 5.

13. *Clipper*, November 4, 1899, page 758; January 27, 1900, page 1012.

14. *Clipper*, September 3, 1910, page 737.

15. *Billboard*, August 19, 1905, page 34; July 28, 1906, page 9; October 6, 1906, page 33.

16. *Clipper*, December 11, 1897, page 677.

17. *Billboard*, June 29, 1912, page 39. W. Scott Munn, *The Only Eaton Rapids on Earth*, (1952), page 277.

18. *Billboard*, November 1, 1913, page 63; July 3, 1915, page 30; December 11, 1915, page 13; January 29, 1916, page 29; March 18, 1916, page 83; May 6, 1916, page 28; December 11, 1926, page 118.

19. *Billboard*, July 3, 1915, page 30; March 18, 1916, page 83; August 19, 1916, page 35; March 19, 1921, page 77.

20. *Billboard*, December 12, 1914, page 50; April 24, 1915, page 23.

21. *Billboard*, October 13, 1917, page 36; November 17, 1917, page 31; May 25, 1918, page 27; July 4, 1921, page 25; March 19, 1921, page 77; December 11, 1926, page 118.

22. *Billboard*, March 29, 1930, page 186.

A Mickey Mouse Organ Grinder

In the April 3, 2002 issue of the *Antique Trader* an article appeared regarding steel toys at an Inman's Auction in Lehigh Vally, PA, on March 8 - 10, 2002. One item that caught my eye was a Mickey Mouse Organ Grinder with an original dancing Minnie and an "profusely lithographed original box." This metal toy sold for a mere \$24,200. Now, many of us collect organ grinder items but I wonder how many of us have one worth 24K?

I contacted Mr. Randy Inman about this item and he noted

"To give you an idea what condition does to the value of a toy we had this same toy a year prior to this one in near mint condition with a near mint box and it sold for a little over \$46,000."

Apparently the toys in this auction that were all-American seem to be collecting the premium prices, a trend noted by the auctioneer. Another Mickey Mouse toy brought \$17,600 (a mechanical toy which featured three Mickey Mouse characters, each playing either a banjo, castanets or xylophone). Both of these were estimated to be prewar (WW II).

The Mickey Mouse Organ Grinder metal toy is exactly what is depicted on the box. And, the box states that this is "Mickey Mouse" Organ Grinder. Of course the box and the toy are not replicas of an organ but of a street piano. I wonder if I corrected the buyer of his mistaken-identity toy that he/she would sell at a lower price?

On top is a miniature Minnie Mouse with red high-heeled shoes and

red dress. Apparently she moves when the "organ grinder" is set in motion (I assume this is a key-wound toy-there is nothing to indicate otherwise).

Ron Bopp

