



Wichita Wurlitzer - The Beginning

The Wichita Wurlitzer history begins in 1964 when the instrument was removed from the New York Paramount theatre. The theatre adjoined the Paramount Building located at Times Square on the west side of Broadway between 43rd and 44th Streets in New York, NY. The organ was initially sent to Los Angeles where a group planned to install the Wurlitzer but the group was not able to purchase a building to house the instrument. Following four years of storage, a Wichita group, Wichita Theatre Organ, Inc. purchased the organ after the Los Angeles group agreed that Wichita's new civic center was the ideal home.

The organ was loaded on four and half semi-trailer trucks and was sent to Wichita in January 1968.

On February 25, 1968, a disastrous fire destroyed the console. A new console, which was an exact replica of the original in appearance was built with insurance funds. More than three years were required to design and build the replacement console.

During console construction, people associated with Wichita Theatre Organ, Inc., invested some 12,000 volunteer man-hours in restoring the 66,000-pound instrument to like-new condition and installing it in its new home. Approximately 10,000 leather pneumatics were recovered and approximately the same number of wires were sorted and reconnected.

The Wurlitzer has been entertaining Wichita crowds longer than the time the instrument was installed in New York.

The organ is Wichita's Wurlitzer