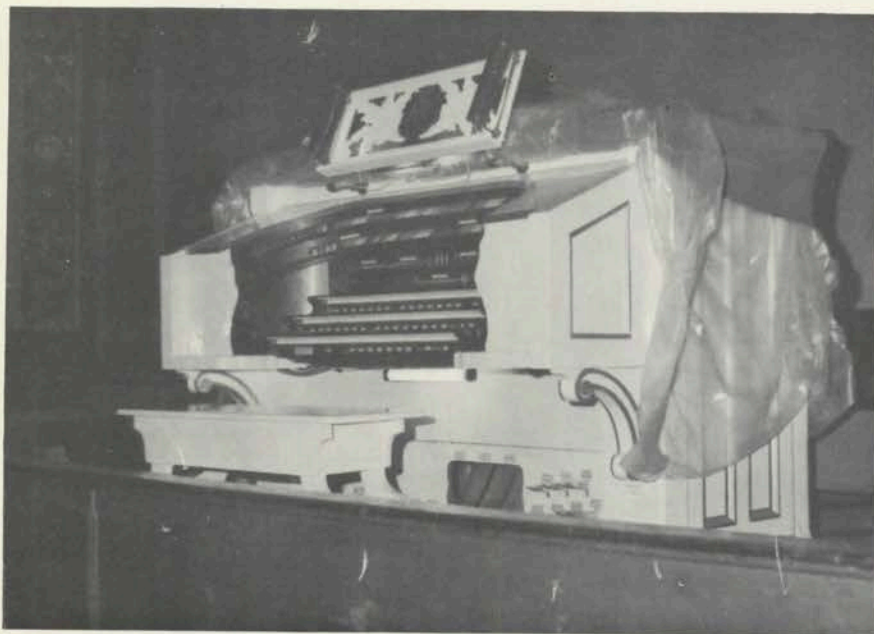


ASHLEY MILLER AT THE CAPITOL THEATRE, ROME, N. Y.

By Father John Quinn



3/7 Moller - Capitol Theatre, Rome, New York

"An ancient pipe organ, unused since the days of the silent movies, rumbled to life again Tuesday night (May 3) in the Capitol Theatre." (Rome, N.Y.) So began the article in the Utica Daily Press concerning our recent concert starring the great Ashley Miller and the Moller Deluxe Theatre Organ. 563 people enjoyed a "Miller Magic" evening for 2-hours of fine theatre artistry. Organ fans from Rochester and Syracuse were sprinkled with organ lovers of the Mohawk Valley from Utica-Rome and as far east as Amsterdam. After the Overture began, they knew their trip was worth the time.

Mr. Miller easily went from "Soft Lights and Sweet Music", "Say It With Music", "That's Entertainment", into a series of songs based on girl's names. For the A.G.O.'s present, the Artist played Bach's "Trio Sonata I", "Adagio" by Franck and "Divertissement" by Vierne (could be wrong spelling, couldn't make our writing and am not familiar with the tune. Laura) - with help from a lady of the audience who 'turned the pages.' (This was the rare time he used written music). A salute to spring followed by some musical varieties ending in a tremendous version of "Slaughter On Tenth Avdne", which left the audience breathless.

The organ was in good shape for a lady born in 1928. It's 7-ranks seemed like 17, as Mr. Miller carefully and skillfully chose his registrations and colored each musical selection.

The only time the organ began to show

it's age was when a reservoir cover began to bang and knock at intervals, distracting only those present who know theatre organs. I spent the entire intermission in the chamber stuffing cloth around the offending lid but Mr. Miller showed his greatness by cleverly covering up the noise whenever it came up, incorporating it into the melody!

A "Sing-Along" in which many old timers found a lump in the throat, was well received. Bathub baritones and shower stall soprano's sang out easily as Mr. Miller teased them on with familiar all-time standards. The finale was unforgettable - "Now The Day Is Over" and "Fantasia Impromptu", played the way only an Ashley Miller can play. The end of the concert found the Artist and



Left to right - Father John Quinn, Ashley Miller, Don Robinson, Howard Teller

Organ married into a musical whole. The applause was sincere - Mohawk Valley loved him.

Now we have some working capitol, we hope to obtain 4-more ranks of pipes and rebuild the blower for more pressure. Mr. Miller stayed with us 2-days and was a delight to listen to as we talked T.O. the entire time. A fine gentleman and talented also - what more could you want! To those who missed this concert, don't ever miss any Miller concert - you'll be tempted to take organ lessons! A great concert. —



LETTERS (Continued From Page 44)

Dear Sirs,

Just a note to say that I am interested in knowing of the existence of your organization and would like to know more about it. Will you please send me any literature you might have and a copy of your magazines Bombarde and Theatre Organ.

We have a former theatre organ here in our church. It is a Wurlitzer originally built in 1924 for a theatre in Newburgh, N.Y. and then was installed here in our church in 1947. It is a rather small instrument; only six full ranks of pipes, also harp and chimes. It has given us good service for the past twenty years and still is played every Sunday. However we recently contracted for a new \$30,000 21 rank pipe organ from the Reuter Organ Co. Lawrence, Kansas. It is to be installed in the summer of 1967. At that time our present organ will be available for sale and any help or contacts you can