

## VOX POP, continued

concert on Feb. 25 to hear the former Palace 4-21 Wurlitzer in the new home provided by the Rochester Theatre Organ Society, the Auditorium theatre. But none of those who didn't hear the Eddie Weaver bash was newshen Rita Becker. She was really "snowed."

The Chicago (CATOE) cats sure offer a lot for only \$1.50 (kids 50 cents!). On April 6 CATOE staged a show at the Patio theatre with Hal Pearl (remember him at the Aragon Ballroom?) at the 3-17 Barton which was restored mainly by Bill Reiger. In addition to the concert there was a silent feature film, barbershop quartet, two-reel comedy and a sing-along—and 12 bits was the most one could pay to get in. In contrast, there's a feeling in some areas that the upward creeping cost of concert admissions—two, three and even four dollars—may be dampening enthusiasm.

The Aragon Ballroom? It's now a go-go joint called "The Cheetah." We understand the most of the Wurli which Hal Pearl once recorded for Replica is gathering dust there.

That livewire Theatre Organ Productions crew (Pat Chambers, Mark Noller and Dick Sklenar) which has been staging a theatre organ type of program in the Chicago area but with a plug-in in lieu of pipes, will soon have a pipe organ to add authenticity to their efforts. The group has arranged to refurbish the 2-11 Kimball in the Parthenon theatre, Hammond, Indiana (near Chi) and in-theatre presentations are planned for fall. They have the full backing of Parthenon owner William Kleige and house manager Edna Peterson. Our most recent mention of the Parthenon was at the house John Muri played in during the '30s in our February article about Milt Herth.

**Niagara Frontier's program chairman Bob Sieben informs us that the Chapter's own 2-6 Wurli in Klauer Hall sounded great at the Dean Robinson concert on March 10, its second airing for Chapter members.**

Ever hear of a Steere and Turner brand of organ? We didn't until one turned up in an ancient Wisconsin theatre. Installed in 1891, the instrument was recently given a



WAIKIKI MORTON — The hands belong to John DeMello.

much-needed overhaul by Lawrence Richardson. It will be the subject of a future article.

**Notice anything strange about the 4-18 Wurlitzer (it says) pictured on page 2 of the Feb. '67 TO/BB? Reader Eric Reeve did. The photo shows the interior of the Seattle 5th Avenue theatre and the text says the house is equipped with a 4-18. But the eagle-eyed Minot (No. Dakota) "fuzz" counted only the three manuals showing and, cop that he is, wants to know who stole the fourth keyboard?**

From Indianapolis, Tom Ferree writes that he's in the market for a set of 32' Diaphones and some solo reeds to add to his 3-10 "Giant Uniphone" organ in the Rivoli theatre. Tom chides us for stating that the Rivli's chambers once housed a Barton when the long-gone organ was actually a 2-6 Robert Morton. For shame!

From Montreal, Dr. Ray Lawson advises that he has his home-based Wurlitzer in top shape for the benefit of visitors in town for the World Fair. He adds that fellow Montreal enthusiast Rosiare Houle's Moller installation "is in fine shape and it sounds really good." In not-too-distant Plattsburgh, N. Y., Dick Weber's double Wurlitzer in the Strand was the main attraction at a Feb. 15 variety show. Billed as a "Musical Valentine," the presentation included variety acts, the Plattsburgh Male Chorus and "Canada's Hit Recording Artist," Leo Duplessis in *Pipe Organ Black Magic*—all for \$1.50! Proceeds went toward the purchase of band uniforms for local school kids.

*Dr. Art Sherman (Sacramento, Calif.) recently spent his vacation in Hawaii and managed to play both Princess and Waikiki theatre Mortons in Honolulu, thanks to manager John DeMello who does so much to keep pipes alive in our 50th state. (Photo: Waikiki Morton).*

The independent Detroit TOC continues with a parade of top talent playing its Senate theatre Wurlitzer month after month. The March concert, held on the 18th, starred talented Patti Germain, who is remembered for her performance at the Richmond Regional ATOE meet in 1966. Patti followed Ashley Miller who played DTOC's Feb. 25th program at the Senate. All of which can only whet the musical appetite of the Detroit-bound ATOE conventioneer come July.

### WELCOME

to the two newest chapters  
MID AMERICA CHAPTER  
based in Wichita, Kansas

and

SIERRA CHAPTER  
based in Sacramento, Calif.

# DISC SQUEALS

To avoid possible disappointment, Ann Leaf wants it known that Vol. II of her *Concert at the Los Angeles Theatre* is available in monaural only. However, "That Aint the Way I Heard It" (Robert Morton) and *Spectacular Organ* (Wurlimorton) may be bought by mail from Ann at \$4.35 mono and \$5.35 stereo, post-paid. Write to 1138 Hacienda Place, Los Angeles, Calif., 90069. With the San Francisco Fox 4-36 gone and Fantasy records running low on the tunes they recorded just before it was moved, Everett Nourse and Tiny James have been looking for an organ suitable for the continuation of their very successful *Farewell to the Fox* series. They may have found it in the 4-22 mostly Wurlitzer in Grant Union High School in Sacramento. If it jells, they'll need a new title; perhaps something very general, such as *Salute to Grant*, maybe?

**The major recording companies insist that organ records are too slow in sales for them to bother with.** Not so, says prexy Bill Johnson, the guiding talent behind the Organ of the Month Club. Not only has he had to move to larger quarters to meet nation-wide business demands but has also started to have his records pressed in Australia (stereo) and in England (monaural only) for local distribution. Wonder if Bill would mind having our Bombarde review copies sent over from England?

•The monkey wrapped his tail around the flagpole all right, as the old parody goes, but not to the "Washington Post" March as we credited Don French on his current Organ of the Month release. It should have been called out as "The National Emblem" March, and the monkey shown with his foot in his mouth. So impressed was Johnny Seng with the sounds and music which Billy Nalle produced on Johnny's Mundelein Seminary 4-23 recording organ during a brief visit early this year, that Seng invited the New Yorker (by adoption) to make his next recording at the one time Chicago theatre console which controls his hand-picked ranks, on the spot. Which is a switch because, as we understand it, Johnny intended to use it solely for his own recordings. But the artistry of the transplanted Floridian must have gotten through to him and he made the generous gesture. He'll never regret it.

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