

**NATIONAL A. T. O. E.  
CONVENTION  
Portland, Oregon**

MONDAY, JULY 11  
VISITS TO BILL BLUNK'S  
MARR - COLTON 5/24

*Continued From Last Issue*

It was realized by all attending the 1966 ATOE Convention that our host, the Oregon Chapter, had carefully planned each event.

The efficiency of the Oregon group was most pronounced in their use of charter buses to take ATOE'ers to the more out of the way events such as the visit to Bill Blunk. The use of the bus at a very nominal cost erased any worries about parking, checking of street maps and the embarrassment of getting lost. There were several tours scheduled two hours apart—which guaranteed there would be no over-crowding at each event.

Upon arrival at Blunk's studio the conventioners were greeted by the hospitable Bill Blunk. His friendliness would have been worth the visit even if the organ hadn't been playing.

The Marr-Colton 5-manual console dominated the studio and, after inspection of its massive triple bolster stop-list, the attending members went to their seats.

Master of Ceremonies Myers (there are five Myers Brothers . . . this was Fred . . . we think) took over and introduced newly-elected National President Dick Schrum who did the honors at the ebony finished console.

Dick presented a delightful selection of popular standards, selected especially to show off the largest instrument ever.

It was amazing how well balanced this large instrument sounded in the rather small but well designed studio. Many members expected to be blasted out of their chairs but Bill Blunk's planning proved that a really big theatre organ can be installed in intimate surroundings without damage to the listenability of the instrument.

Schrum took the audience through a musical tour of the organ's ranks and thoroughly delighted his listeners with his approach to theatre organ playing.

At the conclusion of the program, the waiting buses took members to the Howard Vollum residence.

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Dick Schrum takes time out from concertizing to introduce Bill Blunk, owner of the largest Marr - Colton ever built.



Bill Blunk and Ray Bohr pose during the program at Blunk's Studio.

**New A. T. O. E. National Headquarters Address**

P. O. Box 7404  
Bitter Lake Station  
Seattle, Wash. 98133



## NATIONAL A. T. O. E.

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Monday, July 11

### VISIT TO HOWARD VOLLUM'S

The buses chartered by the Host Chapter for transportation from Bill Blunk's to Howard Vollum's gave sightseers a chance to see a good bit of the Portland area as the trip from Bill's studio was across town and up into the hills above the city.

The beautiful evergreen-covered hills surrounding Portland are a sight to behold. Nestled among the pine and fir trees is the Vollum residence with well manicured lawns, many varieties of exotic trees, shrubs, flowers and a real mighty Wurlitzer. Who could wish for more!?

The focal for ATOERs, of course, was the organ located in a studio building especially built to house the ex-Paramount San Francisco 4/33 Wurlitzer.

The studio is built on two levels with the all white (re-finished console) on the upper, or balcony level. This gives the organ plenty of space to speak as the beamed ceiling is a full two stories above the floor. The room is designed for recording and sound research. Careful planning of the studio is immediately apparent.

Jim Roseveare of San Jose, California did the honors at the console. He announced each number individually and gave some background on each tune. His renditions of several Crawford arrangements, including "I Love to Hear You Singing," showed that Jim has a good ear for the "Poet's" style.

He also did numbers in the modern harmony concept which were nicely phrased and registered to show off the wonderful installation. Roseveare's program was deserving of many encores, however since the scheduling of bus transportation required close timing, the program had to be limited to the allotment of time given to each group.

The evening was taken up with a jam session at Bill Blunk's, complete with snack bar. This event enjoyed a full house, although many passed up the chance to freeload in order to find transportation home.

The airline strike found everyone except those with autos looking for a way out of town.

At the close of the convention everyone was reading timetables for railroads, bus lines, smaller non-struck airlines, and some even rented cars to make the exodus from the Rose City.

It was rumored that Stu Green, Editor of BOMBARDE, left town on horseback. Thus the most successful convention in the history of ATOE ended.



Ben Hall introduces Howard Vollum while organist Jim Roseveare applauds. Behind Jim is the Ex-Paramount S. F. console.



Jim Roseveare at the Wurlitzer 4/32 at the Howard Vollum home.