

"SOUND OF THE SILENTS"

by Horace Proctor

The big sound camera moves in for some closeup shots of Don's hands and feet in action. Filming and recording session lasted more than three hours; the time on T.V. screen: four minutes and twenty seconds.

Photos by Robert B. Little



AT 7 O'CLOCK sharp, KYW-TV's big Chrysler station wagon pulled up in front of the Sedgwick Theatre, and the four man crew began unloading their gear. Two handtrucks loaded with cameras, lights, and sound equipment were wheeled into the darkened lobby, and the men set about their business.

Jim Collis, KYW Special feature reporter, in charge of the production began gathering information from Don Kinnier, our organist for the evening, and from chapter President Horace Proctor. In a matter of minutes, he had his plan of operation in mind, and set about putting it into action. From across the street, the cameraman filmed the front of the Sedgwick, shabby and forlorn; the Marquee gone, and the plywood front and slatted wooden gate adding their notes of depression to the picture. Now the "photog" was directly in front, under the still remaining SEDGWICK sign which he filmed in a dizzying spiral, which made the sign reel in circles on the T. V. screen.

A scene through the wooden slats of the forbidding gate, and we went inside. Now the sound camera with its giant Zoom lens was set up first in the lobby, just outside the auditorium door, and the filming resumed through the glass panel, slowly zooming to the console. During this time, Don had been playing the street beat to Washington Post March, the great Moller Organ's drums and cymbals booming and crashing out the rhythm. Finally, we are inside, and march melody itself comes on strong. Again the camera is moved; halfway down the aisle, and then down close; it's great eye trained directly on the huge ivory and gold console, on Don Kinnier himself, and on his flying fingers. TAKE ONE! TAKE 2! TAKE 3! and the episode is ended.

Then followed closeups of Don, his

hands, his feet, and his face, from every possible angle, while he played great theatre music from the days gone by; the tape recorder, and the sound camera taking it all in. After shots of the organ grills, and other scenes of the theatre's half naked interior, up into the chamber went the camera and lights for closeups of the traps on action, and the pipework; this time with the silent camera only, the tape recorder capturing the sound from downstairs. By now we could all see that the T.V. crew was having a ball. The cameraman was climbing all over the organ like a monkey, and the fellow holding the light, not quite so steady in high places, followed hesitatingly behind.

The photography was excellent! Viewers were treated to closeups of the marimba and glock hammers beating away, the drums, the cymbals and other of the single stroke traps hammering out the beat, and impressive views of the hundreds of pipes. Back again to the auditorium floor, and a brief interview with Horace Proctor, chapter President who answered questions from Jim Collis about the organ, the chapter, and the ATOE in general.

A little more than three hours after it all began, the chill of the damp, gloomy theatre having permeated everyone's

bones, we called it quits. The T.V. crew had all the material they wanted, and went back to the station, leaving the rest of us to talk it all over, and wonder anxiously when we would be on the tube. Six days later, on Memorial Day's 6:00 p.m. news, there it was! *Sound of the Silents!* Narrated by Jim Collis of the KYW-TV Special Feature Staff, and fea-



TUNING UP FOR THE CONCERT. Chapter President Horace Proctor strikes a typical pose during tuning session for the May 21 Don Kinnier concert. Empty rack board in front of Diapason accommodates English Post Horn, removed for safe keeping, and replaced and tuned the morning of the concert.

turing a dazzling young artist, Don Kinnier, at the giant theatre organ!

It was great. First, a brief narration with the street beat in the background, and then the march itself, leading the audience into the auditorium. Following this, a variety of theatre music, and some pop tunes, accompanied by closeups of Don, the drums, cymbals, and percussions, and finally, silent film clips, borrowed by the station from the Franklin Institute's Nickelodeon.

Seen in thousands of area homes, The Delaware Valley Chapter had gone down in history, in an event that would be remembered by many for a long time to come.

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