

## CLOSING CHORD, cont.

The illness blinded him several years ago and finally took him from his friends and family after a siege of Uremic poisoning brought on by Diabetes. He loved organ music and he's 'over there' now with the great ones who went before—Murtagh, Siegel, Crawford, Cole, Farney, Slosser, and the whole bunch. They were a great crew and Jim will fit in."

Jim is survived by his mother, his wife, Sheila, and their children, Mary Ann (9), Karen (7) and Michael (5). Jim Connor is also mourned by his seeing-eye dog, Toby, who will remain with the family by arrangement with Guide Dogs, Inc. Toby piloted his master about El Paso, even entered the Plaza chambers while Jim did his maintenance chores on the organ.

Services for Jim Connor, 34, were held at St. Josephs Catholic church in El Paso on May 30th. He leaves many, many friends—and a well-restored, playing organ.



Be sure you mail all Chapter News to: A.T.O.E.-P.O. Box 7404, Bitter Lake Station, Seattle, Wn. 98133

## OREGON CHAPTER

An informal gathering of the Oregon Chapter of A.T.O.E. took place on July 9th at Oregon State University in Gill Coliseum. The organ there is a Wurlitzer 2 /8 style F special moved to Gill Coliseum from the Whiteside Theatre, Corvallis, Oregon, in 1961. A short jam session followed Andy Crow's recital. The group then moved to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Dick Chase for a picnic lunch and more jamming on the Chase 3 /14 mostly Wurlitzer organ. About 50 persons attended the meeting.

## OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER

The last two meetings of the Ohio Valley Chapter of A.T.O.E. have been at two very fine theatre organ home installations. The December meeting was held at the beautiful home of Joan and Jack Strader in Cincinnati. The evening of De-

cember 6 was one filled with entertaining theatre organ music on Jack Straders 3m /19r Wurlitzer. The artist was Frank Stitt who is an Organ Division Representative for the Baldwin Organ & Piano Co. Frank presented a very interesting and entertaining program that consisted of a variety of selected show tunes, modern melodies, and Christmas tunes. Almost 100 persons attended this meeting.

Herb Wottle gave a brief report on the Eastern Regional Convention at Richmond, Va. Herb was the Ohio Valley Chapter representative as a featured artist at this convention. Herb said this was a very successful convention and especially thrilling Herb added for he and the Mrs. to have had the opportunity to chat with such artists as Bob Van Camp, Eddie Weaver, Leonard MacClain, Lowell Ayars, Dick Smith, Dick Schrum, Jimmy Boyce and many others.

The May meeting was held in Dayton, Ohio at the magnificent home of Ruth and Ken Hunt in their organ auditorium which houses a 4m /17r Wurlitzer. The artist for this meeting was Bill Smith who presented an outstanding performance to the group of about 75 persons. Bill made use of practically every stop on the organ, and held the close attention of everyone throughout the entire program.

The Ohio Valley Chapter is presently formulating plans for another public organ concert to be held sometime in the fall of '67. I might add that Gaylord Carter has certainly made an impression on the people of Greater Cincinnati. Gaylord's two performances at the Albee Theatre in Cincinnati last year were both outstanding successes. The name Gaylord Carter will remain in the hearts of Cincinnatians and Northern Kentuckians for many many years.

## PIEDMONT CHAPTER



Don Hall announces the next number while Sid Seymour tries to drop a hint.

Sunday, April 16, 1967, the Piedmont Chapter met at the Pearson Music Company, Durham, North Carolina. Don Hall and Sid Seymour, at the Wurlitzer 4520 theater organ and Wurlitzer piano respectively, gave a very good duo performance of popular selections. As visitors we had members of the Wurlitzer Club of Durham. The program was well played and warmly received.

After the formal meeting and program, the Piedmonters went to a nearby restaurant. Chairman Marion Martin showed drawings and gave details of the thirty-plus rank Moller organ he had just purchased from Loew's 83rd Street Theater in Manhattan. This writer, with his fifteen or so years of pipe organ maintenance, removal, and reconditioning experience, secretly was glad it was Marion's organ and not his—though the writer could not help but wonder just about how that Moller would sound against his own little nine rank Kimball!

June 18, again a Sunday, Piedmonters took to the hills of southern Virginia to spend an afternoon with Frank Netherland's three manual, nine rank Kimball. Since Frank is writing this notice, we won't engage in any critical review of the selections he attempted to play. Suffice it to say that it sounded much like any other outworn talking machine platters from the palmy days. Most of the members did better during their stints at the console. An interesting and unexpected feature of this meeting was the playing of several ancient, deteriorated acetate disks of this very Kimball, made thirty-odd years ago when it was in its original theater installation in eastern North Carolina. Ben Hall might tell us when Deanna Durbin made "It's A Date", and John Carradine appeared in "Grapes of Wrath". These two pix were being plugged on the acetates, which were obviously made as radio radio spots. These platters had been salted away these many years by a former projectionist at that theater, and they were brought to us by member Sid Seymour. The organ is actually vintage 1922, and since these records were made it has been moved three times, first in 1938 to radio station WPTF in Raleigh, N.C., then twice since 1958 by its present owner. For the complete story, see *Theatre Organ*, vol. VIII, No. 1, Spring 1966. By the way, all nine sets of whistles are now on the steam.

At the recent meeting with the Kimball, the Piedmonters discussed the state of affairs of the only two theater installations remaining in our territory. One, the Carolina in Greensboro, N.C. has just undergone a complete theater renovation from booth to proscenium, complete with new projection equipment and rocking chair seats. To the delight of popcorn palace buffs, the original "Roman Palatial" decor, among the most beautiful in the South, was retained. The six rank Morton remains about the same—complete as installed, the biggest six rank sound around, but only in so—so shape. We laid plans to visit our other theater in the Fall. This house is a real "Eye-talian" Palazzo, the American in Roanoke, Va. Its two thousand seats are nestled comfortably among the splendors

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## Chapter News, continued

of wrought iron, plaster "masonry", decorous lanterns, and ornate murals and tapestries, all from the high point of the Venetian Renaissance—1928 version. The ten rank, three manual Wurlitzer Special H does what it can when it is called upon, but it cries out for help—held that, for reasons needless to mention, it does not get.

Marion Martin finally got that Moller home to Whiteville, N.C. in June, and now Professor Martin (he recently graduated from high school chemistry—band teacher to junior college chemistry prof.) is trying to learn what one does with thirty two ranks, plus percussions, in a living room. Any offers of H-E-L-P???

*Frank B. Netherland  
Secretary-Treasurer*

## POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER

The Potomac Valley Chapter held its May meeting on Sunday morning the 21st, at the **Byrd Theatre** in Richmond, Virginia. Through the courtesy of general manager Robert Coulter, and Tom Landrum, Potomac Valley Chapter vice chairman, we were again granted the privilege of hearing this magnificent 4-17 Wurlitzer under the capable mastery of its resident organist **Eddie Weaver**. At 9:45 a.m. Eddie brought the console out of the pit with **Sleepy Time Down South**, and quipped that at that hour on Sunday morning, the opening tune was most suitable to the occasion. The next number was a nervous version of **Flapperette**, followed by **Clair De Lune**. A Spanish medley including **Spanish Eyes**, **Granada**, **Music From Carmen** was topped by a thrilling closer—**Malaguena**, accented with some fantastic arpeggio work on the attached grand piano in the left balcony. This was a most awesome technical display which we hope Eddie will record some day.

Those who know Eddie Weaver are certain that before he ever gets too far into a program, he invariably has some surprises lined up. The first of these was a sparkling rendition of **Dancing Tambourine** and **My Secret Love** played together, which Eddie said he had borrowed from a fellow organist. Nevertheless, the piece had its effect on everyone and opened the door for more. A ragtime medley strictly swingin' that included **Bill Bailey**, **Wabash Blues**, **Muskrat Ramble**, **Darktown Strutters Ball**, ending with **Runnin' Wild**, proved that our artist was at home in virtually all fields of music. Next came as Eddie put it—**Winchester, Virginia** as some of the youngsters who hear him nightly on the Byrd organ call it, and again, he proved himself pretty well adept at telling the organ just how to play, as if by magic electrical or otherwise, the organ took a few choruses

unassisted by Eddie. After **Do Re Mi** done in the same fashion, the skirl of the bagpipes opened up on the audience in a **Scottish Medley**. However, by this time a heckler in the balcony had made it so hard for Eddie to continue to play on, that he had to call for assistance in order to continue the program. Carlos Chapin, one of Eddie's most promising students, climbed aboard the four manual console and plunged us into a very impressive reading of **Slaughter On Tenth Avenue**. We were taken back by this thirteen year olds' ability to handle an instrument of this size, and in the final moments of this piece, he got everything out of the organ that was there to get, without the slightest doubt in anyone's mind that he would be able to. It is indeed heartwarming to see a young man of this stature taking an interest in this field of musical activity and with control and expressive playing.

After a most enthusiastic applause, Eddie again took his place on the bench, and turned to the classics with a complete, and unaltered **Polonaise In A Flat** by **Chopin**, again making ample use of the grand piano as a solo instrument. To conclude the program, an arrangement of **songs you hear now and then**, encompassed a brace of the old and new, ending with an arrangement of **Climb Every Mountain**, that left everyone musically as well as spiritually refreshed. As an encore **Edelweiss** was requested and played as an appropriate complement to the piece heard just before. After many rounds of heartfelt appreciation from the audience, Eddie took the console down with what else but—**Dixie**.

Without doubt this program was one of the very finest this chapter has ever had and those members hearing Eddie Weaver for the first time, realized why he has recently thrilled large audiences in Detroit and Rochester with his unique blend of superb artistry coupled with the art of real showmanship in putting over his program. Our thanks to Eddie, and to Jack Woodson (the heckler) for helping to make the Potomac Valley Chapter programming schedule second to none.

*Ray Brubacher*

## LAND O'LAKES CHAPTER

Our June 17th meeting can be described as a two-part meeting. The 1st part was at Doris and Ed Borowiec's Delano, Minn. home to hear their newly installed Barton Organ. At present it is a 2M 4R MCB—Marr & Colton Console, Barton pipes & chests plus harp & chimes. The organ will soon be dismantled. The 2nd part of the meeting will be at their new home in Bloomington, Minn. to hear this organ expanded to a 10 rank instrument with full percussion—Marimba, Harp, Xylophone, Orchestra Bells, etc.

Incidentally, the Barton is the one Jim

Kennedy used in his organ studies prior to playing at the Ironwood Theatre, Ironwood, Michigan, beginning at the age of 14 and continuing for many years.



Ed, Mary Lou, and Doris Borowiec owners of 2/4, soon to be 10 rank, Marr-Colton/Barton organ.

Clyde Olson began with a talking concert preceding his playing concert, describing the removal of Ed's organ from the St. Paul Cathedral. The organ was in the balcony of the Cathedral with 82 steps in a zigzag design leading down to the main floor plus a block of walking per trip. The Console couldn't cope with the zigs and zags but luckily a hoist was in use in the Cathedral and it was enlisted to bring a swinging Console down. The playing concert was opened with "Stranger in the Night" followed by "Edelweiss" using the exceptionally beautiful Vox on this organ. This was the highlight of the concert for many altho "Danny Boy" was also a contender. Incidentally, watching Clyde's finger substitution is an event all it's own. Ed Borowiec was called on and opened with "Your My Everything" followed by "Spanish Flea" in teenage style. Ed proved his mastery of the keyboard as well as proving how well acquainted he is with his Barton.

Ray Steffens was present and reported his 2M 5R Wurlitzer is for sale, but the Chapter is promised a meeting there before the organ is removed. Since the walls of Ed Borowiec's basement are lined with organ parts and pipes (the additional 6 ranks plus percussion) we all left via the Security Room after a Shakedown.

## EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

An audience of approximately 800 music lovers received a rare treat on Saturday evening, May 13, when they attended the 11th Annual Spring Concert of the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter, held in Stoneham Town Hall, Stoneham, Massachusetts. Featured on the 2 /14 Wurlitzer was a good friend, Reginald Foort, F.R.C.O., being a guest artist for the club for the third time. Reggie played a few of the wonderful selections he has recorded, plus a couple of old favorites which he had been requested to play: "Dust Storm", and "Nightmare in the

Mosque". Both of these selections were good 'show-off' numbers, demonstrating a great many theatre organ effects. Reggie's sense of humor and also his versatility showed forth when he played the currently popular "Winchester Cathedral". Opening with a conventional rendition, he proceeded with his version of how Bach would have written it, then, much to the amusement of the audience, he ended by playing part of Widor's "Toccata from the 5th Symphony" on one manual and "Winchester Cathedral" on the other.



Reggie Foort at the console of Stoneham Hall Wurlitzer.

Just after the intermission, Al Winslow, Chapter Chairman, announced that there had been an additional request. He said that someone had promised to donate \$50 to the Chapter if Reggie would play Ketelby's "In A Persian Market". Reggie's reply had been, "For that I'd play it twice!" He played it once, however, but it was evident that the audience would have liked to hear it again. Breaking away from the scheduled program, Reggie told his listeners that there would be a silent movie, instead of the rest of his program. So, to the opening tune of the "Petite Waltz", the curtains behind the console opened and the audience was treated to a showing of "Ella Cinders", the c. 1928 spoof on Cinderella. This gave everyone present an opportunity to see to a greater extent Reggie's skill and amazing versatility at the console, and judging from the applause, they loved every minute of it. Eastern Massachusetts Chapter certainly hopes that it can soon be fortunate enough to have Reggie back for a fourth time.

Jane R. Lambert  
Substitute Secretary

## PUGET SOUND CHAPTER

The concert for the June meeting of Puget Sound Chapter ATOE was held at the Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon, Washington (65 miles north of Seattle) Sunday the 4th to hear a young 19 year

old enthusiast in the true sense of the word—Brian Ingoldsby. Brian became interested in the "beautiful blonde" Wurlitzer (2 manual—7 rank) when he saw it behind the screen at the little 550 seat theatre. He asked the owner if he could see and play the instrument, but when he turned on the blower nothing else happened. It was in such sad shape from some 20 years of leaking roofs and non-use that there was only one part that worked properly—the blower. Brian worked from mid-November, 1966 to March, 8 hours a day, 6 and 7 days a week without let-up on his labor of love, all donated time, re-leathering and rebuilding wooden pipes and chests and getting the sad little organ back in shape after so many years of non-use. To this young man the ATOE owes a genuine expression of thanks for the tremendous effort he has put forth to further the aims of ATOE and those who attended the concert were extremely proud of the work he has done. He also plays regularly for evening audiences.

The "blonde" meets all the specifications of a style E except that a Kinura was substituted for the violin celeste, and two extra percussions—a piano and a marimba, as well as a xylophone, glockenspiel, and chrysoglott. The organ itself sits behind the screen but showed up delightfully through the screen with the aid of a step ladder and spot light. Open alcoves on each side of the small theater house a white piano on the right and the xylophone, etc. on the left. Above the piano a grill work masks the shutters and the rest of the organ.

Brian presented his varied program with all the pride of a veteran "enthusiast", starting with a group of tunes from the 1920's and Broadway shows. He then took us for a quick trip from "Chicago" to "Manhattan" then "San Francisco" and back to "Broadway (Give My Regards to)", and ended his fine program with some ever popular ballads, especially suited to the Theatre Pipe Organ. It is inspiring to know Brian and good to know that there are young people like him in ATOE:

After a good old jam session, the members and friends moved to a nearby restaurant for a dinner meeting where out surprise guest Erwin Young, National Vice President was welcomed by Chairman Russ Evans. By a show of hands, a good representation from Puget Sound Chapter was indicated for the convention in Detroit, including Dick and Marilyn Schrum, (National President and Secretary, respectively). Tom Kaasa was asked, and graciously accepted, to represent the group musically at the National Convention.

Evans mentioned plans for a meeting in Vancouver, B.C. in October and one in Wenatchee in Spring of 1968. He also

mentioned that the 5th Avenue Theater (Seattle) is no longer being used as a church on Sunday mornings and may be available for work sessions soon. It has a 4 manual /18 rank Wurlitzer in very poor shape.

It looked like Puget Sound day at the George Wright Concert in Portland, Oregon on May 21—thanks for the early publicity, neighbor!

National President, Dick Schrum, performed for a week, starting the 21st of June, including the N.W. premier of "Sand Pebbles" at the Paramount Theatre in Seattle on the beautiful 4 manual /20 rank Wurlitzer Publix #1.

## CATOE CHAPTER

The busy CATOE Chapter (3 activities) By popular demand, CATOE again presented an "Encore Performance" of the recently restored Barton 4m 17r Pipe Organ at the Patio Theatre on Chicago's Northwest side. The event took place on May 18 and again featured Hal Pearl at the console.

Since hundred's of persons were turned away at the April 6 "Gala Premiere Program", CATOE planned this second event after a hastily called board meeting agreed to the popular demand.

The May 18th program again was S.R.O.—over 1600 in attendance. Once again the audience had the time of their lives as Hal Pearl assumed mastery of the Grande Patio Barton and presented a program of organ favorites from the old Aragon Ballroom days to present day tunes. Two silent films and a sing-along were also included in the program. Fred Kruse, CATOE Chairman, introduced Ben Hall to the large audience. Ben addressed the audience with kind remarks concerning the growth of Theatre Organ Clubs and restorations of organs. He also commented about the "fast" moving clouds in the ceiling in relation to the severe storm warnings posted by the weather bureau. As the concert preceded, Ben was seen busy with his camera taking various pictures of the Spanish decor of the Patio Theatre.

*CATOE Presents Tony Tahlman At Elm* On June 5, the Elm Skating Club, Elmhurst, Illinois was the scene of a most unusual and entertaining "Special Theatre Organ Program", featuring staff organist, and CATOE member, Tony Tahlman.

Entering the Multi-colored lighted skating rink, the audience was greeted by the courteous and efficient Elm staff and shown to seats placed neatly around the sides of the rink. From this vantage point, the audience had an excellent view of the first half of the show.

Promptly at 8 PM Tony Tahlman seated himself at the Geneva console of the

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## Chapter News, continued

4 manual 24 rank (Barton-Geneva-Gottfried-Kimball-Wicks-Wurlitzer) Elm Pipe Organ and began the evening's festivities with a special arrangement of tunes from "The Sound of Music". The second number—Thunder and Blazes gave the audience their first opportunity to see the exposed percussions of the organ in operation.

The spot lights then shifted to the far corner of the rink as members of the Elm Dance, Figure and Speed Skating Club took to the floor and presented a fast moving and exciting roller skating show. These young people glided thru various routines in a most professional manner and were rewarded with resounding applause from the large audience. Solo and ensemble dances, as well as a comedy tap dance thrilled the audience. During the skating exhibition, Mr. Tahlman explained to the audience the need for the strict rhythm of the organ in playing for roller skating, and noted that the metronome might be heard at any time.

During the intermission that followed many people were busy getting information about future CATOE activities from Geannie Nachtwey, secretary, who was answering questions in the "new" information booth.

Intermission over, Tony Tahlman returned to the console to the ovation from the 800 persons in audience who now had moved their chairs to the center of the rink floor—under and around the chambers high in the ceiling.

The second half of the program was entirely an organ concert and Mr. Tahlman presented a wide variety of selections. He introduced it with the modern style—"Away We Go-Go" featuring present day go-go tunes. Next, the mirrored ball, symbol of CATOE, flashed its mystic effects as Tony played a beautiful rendition of the waltz theme from "Dr. Zhivago". Throughout these numbers and the ensuing ones, it became evident that a variety of colored lighting effects were programmed for each piece. The contrast of musical selections and various registrations were topped when Tony announced his arrangement of "Queit Village". This was nothing but quiet, but with birds squawking, and other sounds, indicating this village was a lively group. This selection was most entertaining and certainly "The highlight" of the evening's program. Tony followed this with his lightning fast "Saber Dance" to close the program.

The program over, hundreds of persons greeted Tony as he descended the console steps. All agreed that Tony had presented a most interesting and entertaining program. The pleased audience

indicates that a fall program should be planned.

Success of the program was assured by the endless hours of Brain Durack's personal attention to tuning and adjusting the organ for the event.

*Bill Benedict*

*Publicity Director—CATOE*

**Saturday Morning Social Features Leon Berry** On Saturday morning, June 24th, at the Patio Theatre, over 300 hundred members and invited guests were treated to a very enjoyable program played by Leon Berry on the Barton 3m 17r Pipe Organ. Leon played a well planned and beautifully presented program which included "Showboat Medley", "Wabash Blues", "Beautiful Ohio", "Alexanders Ragtime Band" and "Yellow Bird", (complete with bird call).

Fred Kruse, CATOE Chairman, expressed his thanks to Leon and then invited CATOE members and guests to have a "turn" at the organ. Many fine organists were heard during the next hour. This was the first time for many members to have the opportunity to play the Grande Barton Organ and they responded. Coffee and rolls were served in the lobby and the social concluded at 12:30 PM just prior to matinee time for the Patio.

## RED RIVER CHAPTER

Red River Chapter members held their March meeting at the home of member Alice Hardin on the 12th of March. The organ for the day was Alice's Thomas theatre model electronic organ which was turned over to the members with no scheduled program. Several new members were signed up and the Fargo-Moorhead members served a pot luck supper.

The April meeting of the Red River Chapter was a field trip to Grand Forks to hear the three manual Artisan electronic organ which was built by member Melvin Johnson. Mr. Johnson has added a special music studio on the back of his house which houses the giant Artisan organ, tape recorders and several speakers and amplifiers which are housed in a special sound chamber over the studio which gives the effect of hearing the organ in a very large room. Mr. Johnson did all the essembling, wiring and cabinetwork which shows very good workmanship. Again no concert was planned so everyone could take their turn at the organ. A pot luck was served by the Grand Forks members of the chapter.

*Respectfully Submitted*

*Lance E. Johnson, Chairman*

## CONNECTICUT VALLEY CHAPTER

The hub of activity on April 8 was

Greenfield, where the Connecticut Valley Chapter met at the Hub Restaurant for a genial social hour and a delicious buffet dinner. Over coffee, Chairman Stillman Rice commended the business meeting so that it was neatly wrapped up by the time we left for the theatre.

At the Garden Theatre, Al Strauss had the 3 /8 Marr and Colton all warmed up for us. Among members who played for our enjoyment (and theirs) were Mike Foley, Joy Zublena, Stillman Rice, Ev Bassett and others. Featured artist of the evening was Roger Johnson of nearby Shelburne, a professional organist and one with extensive experience on this particular organ. He played with his usual artistry in his characteristic easy, flowing style.

A totally unexpected surprise at the theatre was the arrival from Pine Tree Chapter in Maine of Secretary Bob Melcher and his wife Mary, Miss Anderson, and Ronnie Brown. Ronnie was coaxed up to the console and acquitted himself admirably.

On May 13, Ben Hall, Vice Chairman of the New York Chapter, visited New Haven with his outstanding magic lantern show "From Picture Palaces to Popcorn Parlors". Ben, by profession an author and magazine columnist, is best known in Theatre Organ circles for his unique history of the Roxy Empire and the silent Movie era in which it grew. His book, "The Best Remaining Seats", will soon be available again, as it goes into its third printing soon, replete with handsome pictures of exotic theatres and the mighty Wurlitzers at the height of their glory.

ConnValChap thanks Angelo Mastagni for making Clinton's store available for this meeting, and for providing refreshments.

## SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER

The Regular monthly meeting of the Southeastern Chapter, A.T.O.E, was held at the S. & S. Cafeteria at Lenox Square, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Following a "Dutch Treat" dinner, Chairman Jack Trimmier called the meeting to order.

The minutes were then read. There was one correction to the January minutes. It read that "Member Mike Stribling mentioned that Don Baker will give a concert in Atlanta on April 29th". The correction was that Mike Stribling was not present at the January meeting. This information was passed on. The minutes then were approved as corrected.

Jack Trimmier announced that George Missbach's name had been submitted to National Headquarters for nomination to the Board of Directors. Also, that the names of all nominees from every chapter submitting nominations would be pub-

lished in the "THEATRE ORGAN and BOMBARD" magazine.

Bob Van Camp then gave everyone present the details of the New York Chapter's 12th Anniversary Festival which he attended.

Mac Watson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Bob Van Camp seconded.

After the meeting was brought to a close, all present went to the Lenox Square Auditorium to hear Hal Shutz's performance at the Hammond.

*Donald V. Quinn  
Sec'y-Treas*

## VALLEY OF THE SUN CHAPTER

The regular meeting for April of the Valley of the Sun Chapter of the American Theater Organ Enthusiasts was held April 30, 1967 at the Paramount Theater. Meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M. by Chairman, Howard Rowe.

Minutes of the March meeting were read and approved and brief treasurer's report given. Warren Bechhoefer was asked to follow up on getting a notice of meetings placed in the Sun City newspaper. Announcement was made concerning a request from Motor City Chapter to elect a club representative to play at the convention. Volunteers were requested but none responded.

Since the May meeting will be the last regular meeting before the club goes dark for the summer, tentative plans for an early June social were made.

Guests were introduced. These included Jim Gibson, organist from the Feed Bag in Mesa, Frank Smith, and Bill Sink's mother, Mrs. Sink.

Chairman Howard, explained why the organ had been down for repairs and just what had been done to make these repairs.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned. The organ was open for playing by members and guests.

*Nadine A. Benton  
Secretary-Treasurer*

## HEART OF AMERICA CHAPTER

On June 17, 1967, Heart of America Chapter, ATOE had its regular monthly meeting in Stover Auditorium, University of Missouri at Kansas City. Mr. Bob Jones—a charter member of Heart of America—played for two silent films which turned out to be something of a real special evening for those attending.

The house was packed with well over two-hundred people that came to enjoy Bob playing the Mighty Wurlitzer that

was originally installed in the Plaza Theatre in 1928 and moved to its' present location in 1961.

Bob began the evening with melodies of the 1920's that led into the films that were scheduled for the evening. The first being a classic Charlie Chaplain two-reeler and everyone in the room at one time or another, got a real kick out of not only the "flick" but the fast moving feet and hands of Bob Jones as he tried to keep up with the rather unpredictable motions of Charlie.

The second film was a Laurel and Hardy and was a real "oldie". This time the organ and organist really had a work-out with most all traps going at once—which really followed the mad cap actions of the late and great team of Laurel and Hardy.

The club members and guests recognized Mr. Jones with a standing ovation following the program and it was agreed that not only the organ sounded great, but the organists' artistry at the 3 /8 console was nothing short of just plain great.

This was the first such movie program sponsored by the local chapter and proved to be one of the most successful to date. It is planned to have Bob return this fall and play for a feature length film with either Chaplin or one of the other many great from films that helped make the Wurlitzer what it was and is today to countless thousands of bug-eyed movie-palace goers.

It was also noted that the local chapter had grown over 60% in the past year and was growing by almost 8 members every meeting. Our membership should climb to well over 100-120 by the end of 1967.

*Dr. Robert B. Fray, Jr.,  
Secretary  
Prairie Village, Kansas*

## WOLVERINE CHAPTER

The chapter meeting at the Detroit Theater Organ Club on May 7th was a tremendous success. Practically all of our members were in attendance. After a wonderful concert by Bill Buswell, and a brief intermission in the outer lobby, several members showed their ability on the gigantic instrument.

A short business meeting was called to order by chairman Fred Bayne. Roll call was taken and a treasurer's report followed.

A question on whether the \$1.00 assessment per year was sufficient to meet the Club's demands was discussed and it was decided that it was.

With a limited membership of 50, it was noted that there were 42 members on the roll call, leaving openings for 8 new members.

## LA CHAPTER UNDERTAKES NURSING

ATOE's Los Angeles Chapter has completed negotiations with the owners of the LA Elks Club to undertake the restoration and maintenance of the 4-manual, 61-rank Robert Morton concert pipe organ located in the lodge ceremonial hall, according to chapter chairman Bob Carson. Work on the instrument will start about September 1 and it is expected the instrument will be in playing shape by December, then polished to a high sheen for the 1968 ATOE National Convention, which will be held in Los Angeles in July.

The Elks project organ crew will be headed by Dick Stoney who is leaving the chapter's other maintenance project at the Wiltern theatre with its 4-37 Kimball to organize a small but skilled group. Because of the crowded arrangement of pipes in Elks Lodge chambers, crews working at a given time will be limited in number.

The instrument was played for a broadcast series by John Ledwon a few years ago and at least one commercial recording has been grooved with it. However, the entire instrument has been in need of a complete renovation for many years.



*Letters to the Editor concerning all aspects of the theatre organ hobby are encouraged. Send them to the editor concerned, Box 7404, Bitter Lake Station, Seattle, Washington, 98133. Unless it's stated clearly on the letter "not for publication," the editors feel free to reproduce it, in whole or part.*

TRINITY RECTORY  
Lime Rock RFD  
Lakeville P.O., Connecticut 06039  
June 1, 1967

A.T.O.E.

Gentlemen:

In reading the February and April 1967

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