

## VOX POPS, contd.

to the young man in a brief speech at the banquet. Those who have heard a tape of only a portion of the partly-installed instrument were inclined to agree that Rod "has the touch" needed to transform a pile of pipes into a thing of beauty. Perhaps "that" lazy stream of dreams" will flow again.

For about a year the BOMBARDE has been receiving letters from a correspondent who signs "Lew Williams." From the maturity reflected in his writing and his knowledge of organs, we assumed Mr. Williams to be between 25 and 35 years of age. Imagine our surprise and delight when Lew showed up at the Detroit convention—a lad of 14. Since then Lew has visited the Saenger Theatre in New Orleans and reports

that the big Morton is in pretty fair shape, except for a few reeds out of tune and the usual ciphers which develop in a little-used instrument. He adds that it has a



Lew Williams

"crazy" bird effect which chirps once "then lets out with a sick "deeyyooooo!" trailing upward. He has heard from Don May in Baton Rouge and Don reports that he is installing a pedal Diaphone to beef up the bass end of the little Morton, and the two-deck console will soon ride on its own elevator. All of which should be of interest to Randy Sauls, who played it in the "early talkie" era.

Overheard outside the Pick-Fort Shelby Hotel during the Convention: Man viewing the camera-laden conventioners heading for a concert, "Gosh, it must be some kind of a photographers' meeting!"



*The BOMBARDE reviews organ recordings for official ATOE publications. Manufacturers, distributors or individuals sponsoring or merchandising theatre pipe organ records are encouraged to send copies (Monaural, if possible) to the BOMBARDE, Box 5013, Bendix Station, N. Hollywood, Calif. 91605. Be sure to include purchasing information, if applicable.*

### Sounds of the Sanctuary:

Dean McNichols at the Wurlitzer organ in the Bell Friends Church, Bell, Calif. Available by mail only for \$4.00 (check or money order) sent to Organ Record, California Yearly Meeting, Box 389, Whittier, Calif. 90608. Stereo only. Allow three weeks for delivery.

True, it's a collection of hymns played on a theatre organ, and it was compiled to appeal mainly to Protestant Christians (which it will). But that isn't the whole story. While the Christian will recognize "In the Garden," "The Old Rugged Cross," "Lead Kindly Light" and "Whispering Hope" (among many others), the pure musicality of the treatments would appeal to a Buddhist, a Zoroastrian, an Ahura-Mazdan—all unaware of the religious connotations—or a plain heathen. Most of the tunes are given full theatre organ registration, but even when Dean

turns off the tremos briefly for a "pseudo-churchie" effect, one is still aware that he's playing a Wurlitzer. Of course, it has been done before by Paul Mickelson, Brad Braley, Paul Carson, Jim Orcutt and Lorin Whitney, but never with more appeal to the theatre-oriented listener than here. Despite the size (eight ranks) the organ sounds expansive and full and there is never a lack of variety. The playing is simple and clean, always with a welcome transparency. There is lots of contrast. The organ may be small, but it has some fine ranks, notably a lovely Vox Humana and a lush Tibia. The front of the jacket is covered by a color photo of the Sanctuary, showing the console location and the chamber grilles. The backliner tells about the instrument and the organist. But there's more. Purchase of the album can amount to a healthy slap at communism. All proceeds go toward supporting an agricultural mission with a destitute tribe of Guatemalan Indians (including what would normally be the organist's royalties). The Redfinks are reported to be making gains in Guatemala, appealing to just such people as the usually hungry Indians. But "redthink" doesn't get very far where there's plenty of food and the church mission is teaching modern agricultural methods so the Indians can grow their own food.

The whole encouraging story is told on the album jacket. But even without the political angle, it's a worthwhile album. The theatre organ sound abounds.

### EDDIE DUNSTEDTER WANTS READER HELP CHOOSING TUNES TO RECORD

Organist Eddie Dunstedter has announced that his next recording will be something of a "request program." The famed organist wants BOMBARDE readers to send him lists of the tunes they would most like to hear him play on a coming recording. Of course, he can't guarantee that all tunes submitted will be selected but all who participate will have helped set the trend as to the type of music and style to be employed. He will base his selection on the ten most-requested tunes. The requests may include any type of music—pops, standard or classics. Those wishing to help Eddie Dunstedter choose his tunes may address him as follows: E. Dunstedter, Box 5013, Bendix Station, No. Hollywood, Calif. 91604.

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