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A.T.O.E.-P.O. Box 7404, Bitter Lake Station,  
Seattle, Wn. 98133

## BEEHIVE

The November 1967 meeting was called to order by Chairman Darlene Walker, at the home of Jack and Barbara Reynolds. Emma Street was introduced to the group as the Chapter's first Honorary Member. Lyn Larsen, who participated in the "Birth" of the Beehive Chapter, has also been made an Honorary Member. The article published in the local newspaper regarding this meeting was mentioned and Maurine Poll was thanked for her efforts. After the business meeting, the program was turned over to Jack Reynolds. He gave a brief history of the organ, a Robert Morton, which was installed in 1924 in a theatre at Idaho Falls. Jack brought it to Salt Lake in 1963. It has 6¾ ranks, a toy counter, harp, orchestra bells, glock, plus triangle, xylophone and others. He hopes to add further ranks in the near future. He played several numbers showing the voicing of the different ranks. Jack has a unique style, and the members and guests enjoyed his selections tremendously.

The remainder of the time was turned over to any one among the 42 in attendance who wished to try his talents.

—Maxine Russell

## CHICAGO AREA

December 15, 1967, CATOE members and guests numbering over 200 gathered in the Mont Clare Theatre at midnight. Wally Rathman, CATOE member and assistant manager of the theatre, welcomed the organ buffs and introduced Mr. Tom Sheen. Substituting at the last minute for Lou Frechette (who became ill just before the social), Tom presented an excellent program even with the short notice given him. Intermission followed with the refreshment table, manned by the Rieger crew, surrounded by holiday well-wishers. Members and guests signed up for playing the 3/10 Barton Theatre Organ after the intermission. The meeting concluded just after 4 a.m., and a tired but happy crowd left the Mont Clare.

While some people would walk a mile for a Camel, others don't seem to mind traveling about 170 miles to a very special theatre organ concert. And why not?!?! The Embassy Theatre in Fort Wayne, Indiana, sports a 4/15 Page Theatre Organ complete with piano. At midnight, Saturday, December 16, 1967, Mr. Buddy Nolan, the master of the Page keyboards, did his Christmas presentation of "Theatre Organ at Midnight." More than one thousand people gathered in the magnificent Embassy Theatre once again to see the ornate white console rise again from its familiar place in the left side of the orchestra pit.

On February 14, John Muri presented a program on the console of the Kimball in the Hoosier Theatre, Whiting, Ind. The program opened with John playing for silent short subjects, a charming Christmas vignette, and "Valentine greetings" song slides. (Just as in the good old days, there was trouble cueing the slides.) As this portion was finished, John rose from the bench for intermission and was greeted with enthusiastic applause from the mixed (adults and teens) audience.

After the intermission, the *Phantom of the Opera*, starring Mr. Muri at the console of the Kimball, was presented. It was a most entertaining performance.

Over 150 CATOE members and guests gathered at the Kelvyn Park fieldhouse for the February 20th CATOE social. Guest artist was Jack Hatfield who demonstrated some new songs as well as some old ones with modern harmony on the Conn Theaterette organ. Intermission brought Bob Mueller, chapter chairman, to the stage to talk about the "Fabulous Pearls" shows CATOE is sponsoring in March at the Patio Theatre with Pearl White and Hal Pearl as the "Pearls."

On February 29, 1968, the Rialto Theatre, Joliet, Ill., hosted a big crowd with a fine show. The beautiful "atmospheric" Rialto and its large 4/22 Barton Organ were featured in a well-done live entertainment show on this date.

The program began with Mr. James Slattery welcoming the audience, then introducing Dick Martin, emcee for the evening. Kay McAbee's sister, Rosemarie, sang three numbers with organ accompaniment, followed by the Joliet Barbershoppers with some close harmony. After this portion, Martin announced Jay Himes at the Barton. He rose from the pit playing 76 Trombones, followed by several numbers in the "pop" vein interspersed with classics. This organ interlude was followed by the Chowhounds, a barbershop quartet, and a swing band from the Joliet Junior College, an outstanding group.

Following a brief intermission, emcee Martin introduced a new organist, Larry Roo, making his first appearance at the Rialto. He played a group of well-done selections. Larry exhibited an unusual keyboard talent and enthralled his listeners.

Kay McAbee polished off the well rounded program by playing requests from the audience, finishing up the show about midnight. An outstanding evening!

There was an excellent turnout, with about 40 members from CATOE making the journey to Joliet for the festivities. A grande theatre organ in a grande theatre! The Rialto will celebrate its 42nd birthday in May of this year and it still retains the fabulous Rapp & Rapp decor. It is an opulent house and is a wonderful setting for programs such as that witnessed on this occasion.

Will Leonard's column in the Sunday, February 11, 1968 Chicago Tribune carried a nice writeup complete with picture of Hal Pearl. The story plugged the Charlie Chaplin film series which Pearl accompanied (on Piano) recently for the Chicago Historical Society. Good publicity for Theatre Organs and CATOE when it mentioned the Patio shows.

## ATOE CHAPTER CHAIRMEN AND SECRETARIES (Cont'd)

### VALLEY OF THE SUN (19)

#### Chairman

Howard Rowe  
1650 E. Dana  
Mesa, Ariz. 85201

#### Secretary

Nadine Benton  
2803 W. Keim Dr.  
Phoenix, Ariz. 85017

### WESTERN RESERVE (16)

#### Chairman

Richard Johnson  
241 Brandt Ave.  
Amherst, Ohio 44001

#### Secretary

Esther L. Johnson (Mrs.)

### WOLVERINE (22)

#### Chairman

Ed Beckman  
613 W. Lincoln  
Royal Oak, Mich. 47033

#### Secretary

Mrs. Loma Howe  
3350 Osler St.  
Saginaw, Mich. 48602

## CONNECTICUT VALLEY

Sharing in the proceeds from the Eddie Weaver concert at the New Haven (Conn.) Paramount on October 20 is The New Haven Register Fresh Air Fund, a fund sponsored by the New Haven newspaper to send underprivileged children from the urban area to summer camp. The contribution of the Connecticut Valley Chapter was in recognition of the very fine publicity given by The New Haven Register to the concert, and to the complete rebuilding of the 2/10 Wurlitzer by members of the Connecticut Valley Chapter.



CONNECTICUT VALLEY CHAPTER'S DONATION to the New Haven Register from proceeds of the Eddie Weaver concert is here being accepted by Mr. Charles McQueeney (seated), Day Managing Editor of the newspaper, from Chapter Chairman Stillman H. Rice. Publicity Chairman Jack Heavens and Ticket Chairman Gene Hubbard were at the Paramount Wurlitzer for the presentation. From left: Messrs. Rice, Heavens, Hubbard and McQueeney.

Although the 130 members of the Connecticut Valley Chapter had done a yeoman service in selling tickets throughout the state, the publicity campaign conducted by the Register in the weeks immediately preceding the concert was credited by Concert Chairman Mike Foley and Ticket Chairman Gene Hubbard with reaching a number of area residents who had not heard of the concert via other channels. Many contacted chapter members they knew for tickets, while others purchased them directly from the Paramount box office.

"The Connecticut Valley Chapter is proud," says Chairman Stillman H. Rice, "to have an opportunity to help such a worthy cause as the Register Fresh Air Fund, and we are mindful that such fine cooperation as was shown us in the Register's publicity for the Eddie Weaver Concert speaks well for the interest of the community in the job that we of the Connecticut Valley Chapter are doing to preserve the remaining organs in this state and make it possible for our own members and for the general public to enjoy the incomparable music produced on these instruments. We feel that we will have the whole-hearted support of The New Haven Register and the people of this area in future concerts, and we are glad to take our place as a part of the community scene by benefitting such a fine community project as the Register Fresh Air Fund." —Eleanor D. Weaver

## EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

The December meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hart of Pepperell, Massachusetts, owner of a 2/8 Wurlitzer. Chairman, Al Winslow, opened the meeting at the console with several selections including Christmas carols. A short business meeting was held; progress on the obtaining of a club organ was discussed, and an organ committee was appointed. Incorporation is being studied.

The newly elected officers were duly installed in a ceremony in which each was loaned a musical instrument (plastic slide flute, two flute pipes from an unmentioned organ, and a mouth harp) with which the group played Silent Night accompanied by Al.

The incoming chairman took over the meeting, announced the next Executive Board meeting, and introduced two changes in the bylaws.

The meeting being adjourned, the Wurlitzer was turned over to the club and 15 minute concerts were provided by the professional and non-professional members of the club.

The Wurlitzer is a Model F, installed in 1927 in the Rockland Theatre in Nyack, N.Y. This is the organ on which Ray Bohr began his career. The organ was removed and installed in Ray Hart's home in 1964 by Warren Westervelt of Westervelt Organ Company, Pompton Lakes, N. J. To accommodate the organ,

the garage and breezeway were converted into a music room 22' x 28' with a cathedral ceiling. The pipes are installed in an extension of the garage and speak through two shutters, one on each side of the console and each beautified with floor to ceiling drapes.

The organ is complete with toy counter, traps, chrysoglott, glockenspiel, zylophone, tuned sleighbells and chimes. A player piano has been converted to play from the console, and a grand piano is available for duets.

The club owes many thanks to the Harts for a wonderful evening.

—William L. Burke

## LAND O'LAKES

Anticipation for our January 21st meeting at the home of Elaine and Gary Franklin ran high because, for the first time, we would see a 3M-11R Wurlitzer completely *disassembled*. Stored in the basement of their Bloomington home and described by Elaine as "Stuff all over the place and a mess", we agreed to "stuff all over the place" but a neater mess, as organs go, you'll never find. We had the opportunity of identifying parts and seeing first-hand why, whenever the installation of a pipe organ is discussed, the subject of re-leathering comes up. It must have jolted our technical members to hear such comments as "This must be a chest"—"no, that's a relay." Certainly an informative meeting for many of us.

Upstairs, until the King of Instruments is ready, resides a Rodgers electronic. Completely revoiced by Elaine and Gary, it was knowingly demonstrated by Elaine, who is Rodgers' Minneapolis Manager. Equally at ease in playing all styles of music, Elaine showed how adaptable it is for her classical music practicing. The organ was turned over to members to play. Several commented about it being an easy organ to play.

A brief meeting was held by Chairman Don Peterson. It promises to be a real go-go year for pipe organs.

We celebrated Ray Steffens 75th birthday with a surprise party on February 18th. Ray's preparations to host a regular Chapter meeting were rapidly transformed into a birthday party theme. Festivities began with Don Taft playing a Wurlitzer fanfare, followed by the singing of "Happy Birthday" accompanied by Ray's 2M-5R Wurlitzer Special B. The Chapter, at the suggestion of Chairman Don Peterson, presented Ray with a homemade cake designed as a three manual organ—complete with candlelabra.

Ray's career has centered on theatre organs. For many years an organ technician, more recently he has built organ parts. He played one theatre for nine years for Pantages—to our knowledge the longest run of any organist. He also maintained nine organs from Chicago to Los Angeles. He has carried a musicians card since 1914, and was Business Agent for the Sign Painters Union from about 1935 to 1959. While it was our day to honor him, Ray honored us by playing his Wurlitzer. His 75 years rest lightly on Ray.

A highly successful meeting was held on March 10th at the home of Mark Dalquist which contains a nice Wurlitzer 3-7. There was a good turnout of more than 60 members, entertained by the console artistry of Robert Arndt and Harvey Gustafson. A wide range of music was included in the program, and the Wurlitzer which was originally in the McPhale School of Music, sang sweetly for the performers.

## LOS ANGELES

The year 1968 is expected to be a very active one for the L. A. Chapter, with a number of fine concerts planned, and the 1968 National Convention to be held in Los Angeles in the offing. The Elks Lodge 4-61 Robert Morton theatre/concert organ has been rehabilitated by the chapter and is in top condition. The 2-manual console in the lobby has also been refurbished and has been used to play the Echo organ portion of the 4-61 Morton for the entertainment of arriving members and guests. The Wiltern Theatre 4-37 Kimball Theatre organ is also being maintained. It is planned to hold concerts at both the Elks Lodge and the Wiltern Theatre. The year actually began on December 10th last with the annual meeting and election of officers/installation at the Elks Lodge. The meeting featured a concert by organist George Wright on the 4-61 Morton.

Following this meeting were two very successful concerts at the Elks: Lloyd G. Castillo on January 28, and Jack Loren on February 25. It would appear that Sunday afternoon concerts, possible at the Elks, appeal to many members and guests. On March 24, Jim Roseveare, from the San Francisco Bay area, and with a style reminiscent of Jesse Crawford, rode the Wiltern Kimball console up out of the pit for a fine concert. Members' jam sessions have been started on the 4-61 Morton at the Elks. The first in the new series took place on March 17. A new format provides a

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## Special Report . . .

### LAND O LAKES CHAPTER INSTALLATIONS

Land O'Lakes Chapter Chairman, Don Peterson, has been checking on how many organs are owned by their chapter members, and the status of each. He has come up with 28 organs. No kidding—TWENTY-EIGHT! If any have been missed in the following list, he apologizes.

#### PIPE ORGANS AND STATUS

##### ED BOROWIEC

Ed has a 2/10 combination Marr & Colton, Barton, Wurlitzer. The console is Marr & Colton, the pipes and chests are Barton/Wurlitzer. Ed hopes to have eight or nine ranks playing by Easter 1968. He would welcome help.

##### BYRON CARLSON

By has a 5/21 Wurlitzer. This is one of the three 5 manual organs that Wurlitzer built. The chambers are completed and the shutters are installed. Next are the floor boards, regulators and wind duct. By would welcome some help from the Chapter at a special meeting.

##### MARK DALQUIST

Mark has a 3/7 Wurlitzer. The instrument was in the MacPhale School of Music. It is installed in Mark's home and is playing.

##### RINY DELZER

Riny has the 4/21 Wurlitzer from the Minnesota Theatre installed in his home. He is installing a 2/4 Wurlitzer in his son's home. Riny still has plans of installing the area organ in the auditorium in Bismarck. He has built six portable chambers and has one Wurlitzer ready to be installed. Visitors are very welcome.

##### RED DENENNY

Red has a 3/9 Robert Morton. The building for the organ is almost complete. Red hopes to start installation some time this year.

##### GARY FRANKLIN

Gary has a 3/17 Wurlitzer that is now being releathered. They have picked the location for the chambers and hope to start chamber construction this fall.

##### GEORGE HARDENBERGH

George has a 4/11 Robert Morton. It is currently in storage. George has no definite plans as yet.

##### HARRY JORGENSEN

Harry has a 3/7 Kimball. The instrument is installed, but is not currently in playing condition.

##### MIKE KUSCHILL

Mike has parts for a 3/15 organ. The console and eight ranks are Barton. The rest is of mixed breeds. Mike plans to start construction on a special building to house the organ in the spring. For now, he is releathering.

##### DR. ROLAND MATSON

Dr. Matson's organ is a 2/8 Wurlitzer with piano. It is currently being installed in a rebuilt barn and he expected it to be ready by Feb. 1, 1968. Guests are welcome.

##### CLYDE OLSON

Clyde has a 2/4 Smith organ. It is currently in storage. He hopes to install the organ in his home in about two years. He has to move the house first.

##### BOB PAIGE

Bob has a 3/9 Wurlitzer. He got the organ out of a church. Needless to say, the percussions were missing. Bob says the chambers are about ready and he hopes to start installation of the organ soon. Bob would also enjoy having a work meeting when he is ready for installation.

##### HAROLD and DONALD PETERSON

We have a 2/5 Wurlitzer. The organ is installed and playing. We have just finished remodeling the basement and moving the console. Guests are always welcome.

##### PAUL QUARINO

Paul has four organs. He has a 2/7 Kimball organ installed in Milwaukee. Here in storage he has: A 2/16 Wagnren, a 2/10 Kimball and a 2/15 Moller. These are all classic style of organs. Paul's plans are indefinite at this time.

##### AL SCHMITZ

Al has a 2/7 Marr & Colton with a Kimball console. He currently has three ranks playing. He hopes to get more playing soon. Guests are welcome, but please call first.

##### RAY STEFFENS

Ray has a 2/5 Wurlitzer. It is installed and playing. The organ is for sale. Ray welcomes guests.

##### DAVID SHERYAK

David has a 2/6 Smith organ. The organ has been completely rebuilt. David has found a building in which he can install the organ and hoped to start in February. When installation is complete, guests will be welcome.

##### CHARLES WELCH

Chuck has a 2/9 Marr & Colton. It is installed and playing. He is in the process of adding regulators for better control. Guests are welcome.

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period when beginners on the pipe organ are enabled to try out various stop combinations during their allotted console time. A period of instruction is now included.

In preparation for the National Convention in Los Angeles, July 13-16, a special Convention Committee, entirely separate from the Chapter Board, has been formed and staffed. The special committee is deeply occupied in arrangements for a bang-up convention.

—Ray Bonner,  
Vice Chairman

## MOTOR CITY

While our organization is devoted to the restoration of pipe organs we must also use the instruments or they will fall apart again so we want to cultivate and encourage the organists. To do this, Motor City Chapter has a program for members, doing a 20-minute solo at the Redford Theatre on Friday nights. The reception from the audience seems to get better each week, and the theatre management has made a trailer announcing this weekly event by the chapter. This is a showcase for new talent as well as a place to exercise already developed organists.

Floyd Bunt did the first Sing-a-long. In spite of the projector getting stuck twice, most of the audience really sang out. On a recent Friday, Rod Gates did a bang up performance and for the first time a spot light was used, which made a big difference. It has been a lot of fun for the chapter, and very interesting to introduce a "new medium" in music—the theatre pipe organ—to lots of people who were too young to have ever heard it before.

Another project the chapter has undertaken is a school for organ restoration and rebuilding. The first sessions were very successful—so successful that the group will have to split into smaller sections. It is necessary for more people to learn about the workings of a pipe organ if the chapter is to accomplish its purposes. There are several pipe organs waiting to be refurbished. The classes are being reorganized and rescheduled into smaller groups.

As a small token of appreciation for what Don Miller has done for them, the Chapter presented him with his 1968 membership in ATOE and Motor City, and a television set.

Former movie star, Colleen Moore, one of the nation's leading box office attractions during the '20s, appeared at Hudson's Book Shop on the Mezzanine to autograph copies of her

book "Silent Star" on Feb. 22. Miss Moore's movie career, which began in 1917 and continued to 1936, gave her the opportunity to personally know many movie greats during that era. "Silent Star" is a partial autobiography woven with the lives of Hollywood contemporaries of the '20s and '30s.

For the first program of the year, about 100 members and guests met at the Redford Theatre on Sunday, Feb. 11. Holly Prim started the program, followed by Floyd Bunt. John Muri, in his usual excellent form, played the remainder of the program. He did some "travel music" such as "Subways are for Sleeping" and explained their use in accompanying the comedy. Then the Our Gang Comedy—the first gang! One of the funniest of their films and John's music more than doubled the punch.

On March 10, 1968, the chapter held a premiere at the Punch and Judy in Grosse Pointe Farms. Bill Buswell did the honors at the console of the restored 2-5 Wurlitzer, a Style B with Tibia and full percussion.

The original *Covered Wagon* (filmed in 1923) was shown with appropriate organ accompaniment. Besides this feature, a Laurel and Hardy comedy and a sing-a-long were presented.

The event turned out to be a fantastic success, far beyond the most optimistic hopes. The theatre, seating approximately 700, was sold out and many had to be turned away. The capacity audience reacted as though something "new" had been added to entertainment and was more than enthusiastic at what they saw and heard.

## NEW YORK

The New York Chapter celebrated the 13th anniversary of the A. T. O. E. at the Brooklyn Paramount, now the Long Island University school auditorium and basketball court. Reminders of the glamorous architecture remain in many places. The truly MIGHTY 4/28 Wurlitzer comes up through a section of the court—its recent gold-leaf treatment glowing beautifully—and the immense acoustics provide a truly big and exciting sound. Bon Smith, chapter vice president, headed a crew who got the instrument in shape. Featured artist, Frank Cimino, well-known organist in the New York City area, performed an interesting medley of old-time and recent hits.

Former chairman, 1967, Claud Beckham introduced the new slate of officers and 1968 chairman Ray Zeliff, who pre-

dicted 1968 would be an active and interesting year with many plans for future activities.

Allan Rossiter, chapter secretary-treasurer and national director, officiated in the magnificent lobby while Wes Miller graciously MC'd the console activities.

Larry Smith, house organist, opened the proceedings with a short program. Well-known organists who took turns were Jack Ward, Lee Irwin and Cliff Goodman.

"Assistant organist" Bill Gage helped the open-console players to find suitable registration on the huge instrument. Chapter members who played were Walter Dippé, Eric Zeliff, Ed Martyn, Roy Sharp, Bill Gage and several others.

A chapter meeting in this former palace is always considered a wonderful look-backward to the former glory of the super-movie cathedrals. A little of the glamour remains, enough to stir the memories of that fabulous era.

—Bill Gage

## NIAGARA FRONTIER

On December 17, 1967, Carlo Annibale played to an audience of over 350 persons at the Riviera Theatre in Tonawanda. The audience was moved to a standing ovation when he had completed a program that included everything from the seasonal lilt of the "Little Drummer Boy" to the classical swing of "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue." Mr. Annibale, with his genuine sense of humor, offered apologies to Chopin when he introduced his rendition of the "Minute Waltz."

There was hearty participation when all joined in singing some Christmas carols. Mr. Annibale obliged with a request encore that included Ave Maria, Deep Purple, and Tico Tico. He also dedicated several selections to his mother, who was in the audience. All would agree that the holiday season was a little brighter for having heard the artistry of the talented Mr. Carlo Annibale.

The front page of a recent issue of the *Riverside Review* featured a family photo and article on one of our past chairmen, Herbert Schmit, Jr. Mr. Schmit bought the instrument from the former Capitol Theatre on South Park Avenue two years ago. After one full year of work, it is in as good condition as when it entertained audiences in the theatre. There is a player mechanism that is yet to be restored. However, Mr. Schmit is in contact with the Link Organ Company in Binghampton who promise to compile the necessary information so that this final task can be accomplished.

Nevertheless, the 2½-ton instrument is complete with traps and drum, xylophone, orchestra bells, harp and chimes, and can entertain the ears of listeners up to five houses away.

Memory and remembering were a part of the January 28th Concert by Art Melgier at the Mighty Wurlitzer in the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda, New York.

Some 242 persons reminisced with Art as he played such oldies as "3 O'clock in the Morning." They shared with him in the ever popular Sing-along. Art responded generously with a series of requests from the audience.

Of course, no program would be complete without showing off the talents of both artist and instrument. Mr. Melgier's talents are obvious as he commands the mighty Wurlitzer to respond to his touch. However, the instrument showed that it too, could control the situation. One of the pipes acted up, but artists and audience took all in stride as Bill (Chairman of Restoration) Hatzenbuhler tightened the reigns and gave control of the concert back to Art.

Sounds of bagpipes, trains, airplanes and an oriental bazaar led Art into a tango and then the marches which stir any listening audience. All in all, a fine program by Art Melgier—one to rejuvenate the meaning of ATOE.

On Sunday, February 25th, Louella Wickham charmed the audience at the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda, New York, with musical remembrances of a bygone era. Mrs. Wickham presented a standard program of classical and popular organ favorites, which was exceedingly touching in many places. Outstanding renditions, were "Home" and "Once in Love With Amy," not to mention an original composition, a beautiful waltz named "To Laura" in honor of Mrs. Joseph (Laura) Thomas, her hostess for the weekend.

Mrs. Wickham brought to the Riviera an accomplished background in the organ field. She started at the early age of ten with recitals, and at twelve was working with the Director of Music for the Syracuse Schools as an accompanist. In the late 20's she contracted with the Fitzer Amusement Company who owned several houses in the east, one of them being the Kenmore Theatre, in Kenmore, New York, with a Marr and Colton Organ. At the time when talkies were taking over, her contract had another three years to go, so she was still playing when most other organists were being let go.

She has been guest organist at many theaters in the east including the Lafayette in Buffalo, Shea's Downtown and the Brooklyn Strand. Keeping up with the times, Mrs. Wickham has been demonstrating several different makes of electronic organs and is with Baldwin at present. She was chosen one of five organists to present and teach organ to Senior Citizens. New York State is one of the five where this is being done. She has also played organ for St. John's Episcopal Church in Syracuse, and has also been seen and heard as organist for the fashion shows at the New York State Fairs.

—Mildred Glass

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

The members of this chapter were treated to a Triple Feature Program at their first 1968 meeting.

The meeting was held at the Ye Olde Pizza Joint, Hayward, Calif. The program featured Don Baker, Tiny James, and Bill Langford, at the 3-13 Wurlitzer (plus a couple of percussions).

(Special Note: 2 percussions were listed as part of Pizza Joynt Wurli. Actually, Henningsen has added nearly all percussive devices ever designed for organ use and some others have been worked out, including an accordion operated from the console.)

"Tiny" opened the program, then the one and only Don Baker took over the console and enthralled the gathering for an hour and a half. At the end of his program, Don introduced Bill Langford, resident organist, who closed the musical meeting with a well chosen ballad.

The Chapter sincerely thanks Carsten Henningsen, owner of the Pizza Joynt, Bill Langford, organist, and a special bow to Don Baker, Pliny Allen and the Conn Organ Corp., for making Don available for the capacity crowd to hear. Tiny James and John Gallagher are to be congratulated for their part in making the necessary arrangements.

Other news from Northern California includes the happy report that pipes speak again for the public. Rudy's Supper Club in Vallejo has installed a Wurlitzer style 165 with perennial favorite Dave Quinlan presiding at the console.

Dave played this little gem for years at the 615 Club in Benicia. The organ was stored after the building, housing the Club, was condemned. It was originally in the El Campanile Theatre, Antioch, Calif.

The Sequoia Theatre, Mill Valley, Calif., proudly boasts that live organ music returns to their theatre via the installation of a Baldwin Electronic Theatre Model. The irony of this information is that until a very few years ago a late model Style 165 Wurlitzer pipe organ with a factory-installed Post Horn in place of the usual Style D Trumpet reposed in this beautiful theatre. The instrument was in excellent condition but was sold to a San Francisco recording studio. The Baldwin tone cabinets are using the vacated organ chambers!!! "MR. PIPE ORGAN" PACKS THE HOUSE IN SACRAMENTO

Eddie Dunstedter presided at the 4-16 Morton, Carl Greer Inn, Sacramento on a memorable Sunday in February. Dunstedter, one of the all time "greats" of the theatre organ, proved that he is still the master of the console and could give instructions to most professionals now playing.

Eddie has always been a crowd pleaser. In this respect he proved his pulling power by giving the Carl Greer Inn the biggest Sunday Night business they have enjoyed to date.

Sixty ATOE members from San Francisco made the trip to Sacramento for the bash. Six, including National Prexy Dick Schrum came down from Seattle, and most members of the Sierra Chapter (Sacramento) were on hand.

There would have been two more from the Bay area but John Gallagher's Model A broke down enroute; his party arrived late so was not counted.

## PIEDMONT

On October 1, the Piedmont Chapter met at the Carolina Theatre, Greensboro, N.C., to hear and play the Mighty (little) Morton organ there. This instrument only boasts six ranks, but it has one of the fullest theatre organ sounds around, even though it suffers from a bad case of heavy, dirty drapery-itis in its outer larynx. The acoustics, as well as the plush decor, of the Carolina are particularly good and this helps "Little Morton" a great deal. We heard a delightful program which featured Chapter celebrities Janie Sparks (our little "Organ Annie"), Marion Martin, and one of our new members, Ed Welsh. These artists put the diminutive Morton through its paces while the more nostalgic among us settled happily in our balcony seats and absorbed the magic atmosphere of a real-live movie palace and its real, live Mighty (little) Morton organ.

After the formal program the really badly-bitten movie-palace-and-organ-bugs (we have several) descended the  
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two Grand Staircases (one Left, one Right) and disappeared into the many fascinating corners such a building offers. Various members kept "Little Mort" busy while others examined his innards (slick as a *whistle* in there) and received a guided tour of the fully-rigged stage with its 50 sets of fly lines. Among the goodies found here was a genuine "Palace" backdrop, hanging just as it has since its last exhibition in the days of tabloid. Theatre personnel brought it to our attention that the Carolina would celebrate its fortieth birthday Hallowe'en Day. This house is truly one of the great showplaces of the great era of the movie palaces.

December 3, the Piedmont Chapter met at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Paul Abernethy in Burlington, N. C. Again we were entertained by our petite Miss Jane Sparks—this time at the console of the Abernethy's Wurlitzer Special B. As guests we welcomed Erwin Young and Tommy Landrum from the Potomac Valley Chapter.

Our December meeting is our annual business meeting at which we elect officers for the coming year. Marion Martin and Frank Netherland were returned to their respective offices of Chairman and Secretary - Treasurer. The Chapter established the new office of Vice-Chairman, and to this post was elected Jim Sparks.

We received with great surprise and distress the announcement of the imminent departure of our greatly valued, hard-working charter member and former officer, Don Hall. Don has accepted the post of Educational Director with the Strassenburgh Planetarium in Rochester, N.Y. He, his cute spouse, Judy, his Wurlitzer "plug-in", and their Volksbug made the treacherous overland trek from the sunny, snow-covered Southland to sunny (?) snow-covered Yankeeland January 23. We wonder in dark moments if the activities and particularly the proliferation of sizeable theatre organs in the Niagara Frontier area had any influence upon the move. Piedmont's loss is most emphatically Rochester Theatre Organ Society's gain. We all wish Don and Judy the best of everything, but we feel obliged to caution them about the dangers of big Wurlitzers—particularly those in Yankeeland!

Marion Martin, our Chairman, reports that his large Moller is coming along. Beulah Martin reports that the family home is coming along too, but in just which direction we don't think she is too sure!

As we last heard it, there is extensive remodeling underway to accommodate the accoutrements of the really gigantic Martin Moller, lately of Lowe's 83rd Street Manhattan showcase. We understand the town of Whiteville, N.C., is observing the developments on South Madison Street with considerable interest and possibly with some trepidation.

Several of Piedmont's new members are busily engaged in the chores of restoring and installing Wurlitzers, Mortons, and Mollers. Ed Welsh is hard at work on his 17-rank hybrid instrument. Bill Glisson is polishing away on his 5-rank mostly-Wurlitzer, and Doug Spivey recently brought home a 4-rank Morton which he and Marion rescued from an about-to-be-demolished Durham, N.C., church. Hal McEachin bought a 6-rank Wurlitzer from a church way up in the mountains at Asheville. That organ was originally in an Asheville movie house. George Anthony reports that he is furtively laying plans for the installation of his 10-rank Barton. Our own three-deck Kimball sings out in the night every now and then too when we get time to tickle the ivories and pat the pedals.

— Frank B. Netherland  
Secretary-Treasurer

## POTOMAC VALLEY

The November Chapter meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Young in Alexandria, Virginia. Guest artists at the 2-7 Wurlitzer was former theatre organist Bill Floyd who now resides in Richmond, Virginia. Bill performed at ease on the Model E Wurlitzer with a concert of some old favorites, climaxed with accompaniment of the classic Laurel and Hardy film "*Two Tars*". Over 100 members were in attendance and the chapter thanks the host and hostess, Erwin and Joyce Young for a wonderful afternoon in their home.

A special year-end meeting was held on December 30 at the Church of Saints Paul and Augustine R.C. Church in Washington, D.C. Guest artists at the 3-manual, 35-rank Moller organ was Ray Brubacher, organist of the Church. He gave a tremendous concert which included music of the holiday season and familiar organ classics. The organ was built in 1928, right in the theatre organ era, is large scale, and speaks into a large edifice having a reverberation time of better than three seconds.

On Sunday, January 21, Woody Wise, Chapter Chairman, along with Bob Wise, Ray Brubacher, and Paul White

were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Petty of Fort Defiance, Virginia. Mr. Petty has installed in his residence a 3-manual, 23-rank Estey organ with an Austin roll playing mechanism. This unique player takes rolls made only for this type, the rolls being 21 inches in width. His collection includes hundreds of rolls recorded in the 20's by many famous organists. Besides playing the notes on all three manuals and pedals, all registration and changes are recorded, and all changes of expression made by the organist during the time of recording are faithfully reproduced.

Mr. Petty has purchased from Austin the original roll perforating machine, and after some 2000 hours, restored it to perfect operating condition, utilizing solid state circuitry combined with his mechanical virtuosity. Therefore, sitting at the console in his living room, one can record faithfully his interpretation. The perforator takes a special type of paper for which Mr. Petty searched three years, and is capable of cutting three rolls at a time. Ray Brubacher recorded the Widor "Toccat" from the Fifth Symphony, his arrangement of music from the film "Gone With the Wind," and other selections. Upon playing them back, there was absolutely no difference in the original and roll—all registration changes, expression and even the most subtle phrasings were present on the roll. A detailed motion picture was made of the installation and of the roll cutter in action and will be shown at a future meeting of the chapter.

## ST. LOUIS

St. Louis Chapter began the new year with some new officers and board members and a new resolution to make the Chapter more interesting and active. The first meeting was held January 21st. Program chairman Bern Nordmann and Dale Zieger prepared a program with a taped demonstration of basic Theatre organ voices. Programs for meetings are now prepared several months in advance.

On February 16th, St. Louis Chapter inaugurated a series of organ concerts with silent movies by presenting Dale Zieger in a program, entitled "Thoroughly Modern Organ." Dale provided a completely professional accompaniment to the Charlie Chaplin movie, *The Gold Rush*. A full house thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

At the February meeting two nights later three new members joined as a result of the above program. John Crowley, another recent new member, provided a sound movie from the early thirties showing Jesse Crawford, Don Baker and Ann Leaf.

The March meeting was a special event. We met at midnight Friday, March 22nd, at the Fox Theatre. Leading off the program was Stan Kann, staff organist at the Fox and TV personality, playing some light classic and popular music in the best TO tradition. Then Dale Zieger, Stan's associate organist, played. Following this "formal" program, other members and guests took turns at the Crawford Special while others went on a tour of the chambers. Several new members joined the chapter on the spot.

Another movie and concert with Dale Zieger will be held April 22 in cooperation with the Kirkwood (Mo.) Arts Council. The May meeting will be at the Scottish Rite Temple to hear their Kimball.

— Don Ullrich, chairman

## SOUTH FLORIDA

After much eager anticipation Don Baker made a very brief appearance at our December 10th, 1967 meeting held in the Calvin Jureit home, Coral Gables. Don was on a very tight schedule and couldn't stay as long as he and all of us would have liked, but the Baker magic was ever present. We were thrilled and honored to have him pay our very new chapter this visit.

South Florida is quite proud of its member Clark Fiers, a professional organist of long standing, who journeyed to Rochester for a scheduled concert January 16th at the Auditorium Theatre with the R.T.O.S.

On January 21st, New York Chapter members Peter Schaeble and Jeff Barker visited the area. An impromptu meeting was hastily set up with Cal Jureit opening his doors to us once again. Jeff was the guest organist giving many of us our first chance to hear his unique style. And as if this wasn't enough, chapter members Clark Fiers and Betty Lee Taylor were each persuaded to do a turn on the bench. Anyone who has any knowledge of theatre organists down through the years will recognize these names immediately.

With short prior notice eighty members and guests turned out to receive a visiting Australian organist Noreen Hennessy on Sunday, January 28th. Miss Hennessy, who played a 2-10 Wurlitzer at the Prince Edward Theatre in Sydney for twenty years, was making a round-the-world cruise with the only U.S. stopover being Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale. Arrangements were made to bring her to the Jureit home that evening where she ren-

## ATOE Promotional Letter ... Try One, They Work!

### ST. LOUIS CHAPTER, INC.

American Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

March 15, 1968

Have you heard about the St. Louis area group that is interested in the preservation and restoration of pipe organs? St. Louis Chapter, American Theatre Organ Enthusiasts, is an active and growing group dedicated principally to the traditions of the theatre organ. Our members have a wide variety of occupations and interests, including church organists and other professional musicians.

Perhaps the reason that interest in the theatre organ is growing throughout the country is that so many folks remember the days when the organist was the most important man in the theatre. He not only played solos but supplied the entire background for the silent movies.

If you have ever seen and heard the dramatic moment when the console rose from the pit in the spotlight, you understand why St. Louis Chapter, ATOE, had a full house for a silent movie and organ concert last February 16th. Dale Zieger played this concert and accompanied the Charlie Chaplin movie.

Presentation of movies and concerts is only one activity of St. Louis Chapter. We are currently in the process of building an organ for installation in the new Kirkwood Community Center Auditorium, utilizing parts from the former St. Louis Theatre Kimball and Loew's State Wurlitzer. Regular maintenance and repair work on the Fox Theatre's four-manual, 36-rank Wurlitzer "Crawford Special" is also an ATOE project.

The monthly meetings of St. Louis Chapter are usually held at the Kirkwood Community Center on the third Sunday evening of the month. This month a special meeting has been arranged to be held in the Fox Theatre Friday, March 22, 1968.

You are cordially invited to attend this meeting. It will be held at a rather unconventional hour, however. The only time available is following the last show about 11:45 p.m. Stan Kann, the featured organist at the Fox, will start the program with about 45 minutes of theatre organ music, including both light classics and pop tunes. The organ will be available for members and guests to play. A tour through part of the organ will also be held.

Parking should be available in the Fox lots on Washington, west of Grand. Please bring any other interested people along. Members and guests are requested to sign the register in the lobby.

— DONALD P. ULLRICH,  
Chairman.

dered a delightful performance on the 3-11 organ. Copies of Miss Hennessy's Prince Edward recording were made available at this time the proceeds of which went towards re-installation of that Wurlitzer since removed. Also present at this meeting were George and Emma Basch, New York chapter members.

Scene of our next gathering, Sunday, February 18th, was at the residence of member John DeMiller in West Palm Beach. John has a 3-16 (mostly) Wurlitzer installed in a building on the property, is best heard when the doors are wide open and listeners sit on the lawn, a delightfully unique situation to say the least. Fifty-five members and guests enjoyed this session while basking in the warm Florida winter sun.

— George W. Gerhart

## KAW VALLEY

The Kaw Valley Chapter of ATOE, Lawrence, Kans., met Sunday afternoon, March 17, in Lucille Underwood's home.

Since this chapter has just recently become affiliated with ATOE National, Chairman Luther Cortelyon thought members should become acquainted with the charter and bylaws of the national association. These were read and discussed during the business meeting.

After being entertained superbly by guest organist Bob Jones of Kansas City at the February meeting, the program on this St. Patrick's Day featured chapter members at the organ. Lovely Irish tunes were included on the program, and everyone enjoyed the artistry of the performers as they played on Lucille's Baldwin electronic organ.