

THE COVER PHOTO

EDITH STEELE was the glamour gal of the San Diego Fox in 1932. Today she plays a 3-rank Morton in her San Diego home. And our nostalgic cover photo fittingly symbolizes the theatre-to-home transition of many of the fine theatre organs of yesteryear. (For the story of her career as organist and orchestra leader, see the Summer 1966 issue of THEATRE ORGAN BOMBARDE.



Theatre Organ Bombarde

Volume 10, No. 5

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM THE NATIONAL?

First, what is the "National"? It consists of all of you—chapter members and individuals—including all the chapter chairmen, the elected Board of Directors, the Theatre Organ Editor, George Thompson, his busy wife, Vi, who is the circulation department, Stu Green of the Bombarde, publications director Tom Kaasa in Seattle, advertising director Dewey Cagle, the National Secretary who is my wife, Betty and lastly, the President.

When you request that things be done, it must be with this in mind—for if it isn't within the reach of the comparatively few operating people, the larger number must volunteer, respond to a request for help or supply the money for service.

At the time ATOE was formed, it was mainly a group of hobbyists who had or were interested in working on pipe organs. Since no one wished to make a career out of such a pastime, it was organized loosely with as much local control and as little national control as possible. The magazine was started to be the thread to tie us together and then the conventions that are the annual meetings and get-togethers. This is where we are now. Some of the Board feel that this is all we should be. Why don't you write me, your chapter chairman or any member of the Board and express your views?

Many times in the past as new plateaus of membership have been reached, the group at the time celebrated our success. We add about 800 new members a year and drop about 450. Do you know why? Let's find out. Where are we failing some of these now ex-members?

Many chapters are putting on shows and many write in for help in their various projects including organizing new chapters. We have evolved into more than a mere hobbyist group and we must continue to grow or we will splinter and lose a great deal of what we have worked for.

George and Vi Thompson say we can handle about 5,000 members without changing our circulation set-up. That would increase our income without materially increasing our costs. Past President Dick Schrum pointed out that it takes money to achieve anything much in further growth. To preserve our favorite instrument does not mean to squirrel it away from the public. Even the grandest homes won't hold more than 150 and I'm sure none of them are about to become commercial.

Some pipe organs are being transferred to schools and to various auditoriums. Does your area have such a possibility? Register your ideas with the National and let's see where we wish to go!

If you believe that the best is yet to come and that our organization should progress, elect the ones that will act and then help them by volunteering your services without waiting to be asked and do you know what? It's FUN!!!!!!



Al Mason

Al Mason, President

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