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A.T.O.E.-P.O. Box 7404, Bitter Lake Station,
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DELAWARE VALLEY

The search for a proper location for the Sedgwick Moller continues. We thought we were all set last month but complications arose to make installation impossible. It is hoped that our membership understands the complications involved in finding a spot that will suit us completely. This is a very complicated problem involving details ranging from the field of engineering through to legal considerations. We have laid down certain ground rules relating to our retention of ownership, availability of the instrument, proper size of location, the expense involved, and numerous other important factors. All this is taking time and a tremendous amount of hard work and research on the part of just a few individuals. Please support these dedicated members by your continued patience.

Recent events were quite successful in spite of limited attendance. At the Tower Theatre in July, a morning of organ music provided by many of our local talents was climaxed by Don Kinrier, who did a magnificent job accompanying a silent comedy (cold, too!). Great credit is due to house organist Bob Lent and his hard-working associates, who have brought this instrument back to full and glorious voice.

To those of you who did not get up to the bash at the Cinema Club in Duryea, Pa.—our regrets. We had a ball! In addition to good food and drink, we were royally entertained by host-organist Henry Lee at the 4-manual Kimball. A similar function was planned for Sept. 15 at Surf City Hotel, Surf City, N. J., with a 3-15 Wurlitzer available.

On Aug. 25th, in spite of a heat wave, the meeting at the Broadway Theatre in Pitman, N. J., was a great success. This spotless little theatre sports a 3-8 Kimball in fine condition which was first

heard in this excellent acoustical setting just forty years ago. Talent was plentiful, the session starting off with Esther Higgins, well known DV teacher and author who has frequently played this instrument. Following Esther were Al Hermanns, Shirley Hannum and Milton Satchell, a former theatre organist from the Atlantic City area. Biff Clafin, Leo Bolbecker and Andy Casperi took their turns at the bench, followed by Dennis James, who had performed at the ATOE convention in Detroit in 1967. Also heard were Garret Paul, Dottie MacClain, Grant Whitcomb and Marshall Ladd. Anchor man for the affair was Lowell Ayars, who graciously waited until the end to play since he had played many times before, having been house organist in this very theatre.

—Grant Whitcomb

LAND O'LAKES

Our annual picnic July 21, again hosted by Ethel and Don Taft, seems to be the one event of the year dedicated to the Little Organ Orphans—our children. Horseback riding, tractor rides, pony rides—this year also a pony cart—plus the Taft hospitality make for quite a day.

A first for our chapter—a work meeting was held August 10th at Doris and Ed Borowiec's new home. About ten members showed up to help with the installation of Ed's 2-M Special B Wurlitzer. Currently four ranks are being installed in two chambers. At a later date another four or five ranks will be added. Ed reports much was accomplished and the work meeting highly successful.

Our meeting at the Harold Peterson home in August found the customary informal friendliness of the Petersons adding much to the success of the meeting. It was hosted by the Petersons as a welcome home party for Dodds Peterson, on Navy leave from Vietnam. With Dodds as master of the organ we had the special effects of a 36" Chinese gong he brought home from Hong Kong, masterfully struck on cue by Harold Peterson—about which Dodds said they finally found an instrument his Dad could play. Another first at the Peterson home is closed-circuit television—permitting the overflow crowd to be upstairs and still see and hear the organ.

We had two featured organists. Kathy Kaye, a local organist, is new to the pipe organ but dedicated to it. With only three practice sessions, she certainly gave an outstanding concert. Mike Kline, who also plays locally, is adept at variation. His concert included something for everyone and was excellent.

An unexpected bonus was the arrival of Gordon Krist, formerly from the Detroit, Mich., area, now playing in Min-

neapolis. With only a short time to spend with us, he was put on the spot to play immediately. Talk about going on *cold*, Gordon neither knew our members nor the organ, but both members and organ showed instant response to him. We hope he comes to future meetings and promise him a chance to use a folding chair before the Howard Seat.

Dodds gave an accounting of the organs he has seen and played during his Navy travels, such as the 3-M Wurlitzer in a department store in Tokyo, where the ivories are not glued down but fastened with four brass screws. Dodds' performance at the Wurlitzer made it hard to believe he has been away from it for a year.

—Irene Blegen
Secretary

LOS ANGELES

The fall season of theatre organ activity began on Sunday, Sept. 15, with a concert by John Ledwon on the 4-manual, 61-rank Robert Morton in the Elks Building auditorium. This was preceded in the morning by a jam session on the 4-M, 37-R Kimball in the Wiltern Theatre. It is planned to schedule jam sessions the same day as the club's concerts, at the alternate location. A member may then hear two different organs during a single day, and may play one of them himself.

In order to develop interest in theatre organ music among young people, arrangements are being made to invite school music classes, Boy and Girl Scout groups, etc., to each of the chapter's concerts. It is hoped that a number of younger generation theatre organ fans will develop.

The LA Chapter has been assisting a local community in the acquisition and installation of a theatre pipe organ in their civic auditorium. Effort is in progress to establish an arrangement whereby chapter members will be able to practice on the Elks building Morton when the auditorium is not in use. Details of the plan have been sent to the membership for their consideration.

Members are looking forward to a number of coming events. These include the October general membership meeting, a concert during October, the November public concert featuring Dick Leibert of the Radio City Music Hall, and a joint AGO-ATOE Christmas Party Dec. 12. This latter event will feature Gaylord Carter, cueing a Harold Lloyd silent movie. Are AGO members becoming theatre organ fans?

The LA Chapter of ATOE has a new official mailing address. It is P.O. Box 482, West Covina, Calif. 91790.

—Ray Bonner

MID AMERICA

The chapter has acquired a club-owned pipe organ. The organ was originally installed in Plymouth Congregational Church, Wichita, by the Reuter Pipe Organ Co., Lawrence, Kas., in the early 1930's and was replaced with a larger Reuter by the church early in 1959. When the 2-manual, 16-rank organ was removed from the church, it was placed in storage until our chapter purchased it in August of this year. Upon first inspection everything looks to be in good shape and can probably be reinstalled without having any major work done to it when we find a new home to put it in.

The first meeting of the 1968-69 season was held at Chairman Tom Cusick's home on Aug. 9th, to make plans for the fall projects. The project receiving the most attention is that of the completion work on home installations. Seven members have pipe organs planned, in process of installation, or completed. Along with the club organ, we now have eight instruments, with nine consoles and a total of 88 ranks of pipes.

Plans are being made for the completion of the chapter project in Miami, Okla., at the Coleman Theatre where a Wurlitzer, style 160 special (3-m, 7-r) now speaks again, thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Oneta Puckette, who has led a "one-woman crusade" for the restoration of this fine installation in a 1,300-seat theatre. The organ was installed in June of 1929 and was played regularly until about 1950 when a new manager was appointed there. After the organ fell into disuse, the solo side was badly damaged by a leaking roof. Not enough of to be of any use to the organist. Mrs. the Tibia, Vox or Trumpet ranks played Puckette discovered the organ when they moved to the nearby town of Jay, Okla., 1962, and has since carried out her dream of having the organ restored. She contacted Bob Foley in the summer of 1966 to ask his help. He and David Dillon have spent a number of weekends in Miami after driving 200 miles from Wichita, doing everything that needed to be done to put it in first class condition. The chapter adopted this as a project in 1967 and helped with the expense of needed new items. On the last trip Tom Cusick and Victor Rork went along to help and spent three days finishing up the needed work.

One more trip will be necessary to put the organ in topnotch shape, but the results of the work are quite evident when the organist finds that all pipes play instead of a few. Mrs. Puckette spent her own money, earned by giving piano lessons, to have the console refinished and now it both looks and sounds like new. April of 1969 will be the 40th anniversary of the Coleman Theatre and our

chapter is planning to present Bob Foley in concert, along with a silent movie and a special film presentation.

After the business meeting, the 2-m, 7-r Hinners pipe organ was enjoyed by the members with several playing. This instrument was formerly in the Mt. Carmel Academy here in Wichita and was removed by Tom when the school moved to new quarters. The organ was originally a tracker, but was electrified a number of years ago. A Vox Humana was added, along with chimes, to the original six ranks of pipes. The next meeting will be held at the home of Bob Foley and David Dillon, where work is in process on the installation of the 4-24 pipe organ, a combination of Barton and Wurlitzer.

NEW YORK

The New York Chapter began the fall season with a nice looking four page newsletter known as "New York Theatre Organ." Plans are to publish bi-monthly. It is edited by Bon Smith and John Bitner.

Plans for the season include a program by Don Baker at the Rahway Theatre, Rahway, New Jersey on October 23rd. The Organ is a Wurlitzer Style E 2-m/7-r. It has been restored by ATOE members.

A seven-rank Kimball in the Lynbrook, New Jersey Theatre is now in the process of restoration with ATOE members, headed by John Bitner doing the laborious chore of bringing another Theatre organ back to life.

NIAGARA FRONTIER

On July 31st, John Muri played to a full house at the Riviera Theatre, North Tonawanda, New York. John presented a varied program from "March Militaire" to "Born Free". He included some Jesse Crawford numbers of which Jesse's radio theme song "Blue Twilight" was especially noteworthy. It was a superb concert and the appreciative audience gave Mr. Muri a standing ovation.

The Riviera Wurlitzer was recently recorded by organist-composer, Carlton Finch. The recording includes an original composition, "Niagara Falls Symphonette". The Niagara Falls Gazette Reviewer described the composition as similar to Grofe's "Grand Canyon Suite"—a musical picture of nature.

The Niagara Frontier newsletter, "Silent Newsreel" also reports that Colin Corbett is currently playing the Hilgreen-Lane organ at the Odeon-Carlton Theatre in Toronto on Saturday evenings at the nine p.m. intermission. This 3-manual, 19-rank organ is probably the most recent new theatre pipe organ installation. The theatre was built in 1948

and the organ was built and placed at that time.

NORTH TEXAS

This chapter, recently established in the Dallas area, has several projects going. For example, member R. A. Freeman is building a home surrounding a pipe organ. In this new home he will have a circular room 40 feet in diameter. It will have a 32-foot ceiling. In fact, in his new domicile, some 2000 feet of floor space will be set aside for the installation of the pipe organ.

"Actually," he says, "we are building the house around the organ. I have been working on the plans for about a year." Freeman, a Ling-Timco-Vought executive, is one of 35 members of the North Texas Chapter of A.T.O.E. Many of them already have organs installed in their homes. Others, like Freeman, are drawing elaborate plans.



NOR-TEX CHAPTER'S E. M. Johnson (foreground) and R. A. Freeman look over some of the pipe-work in Johnson's home theatre organ installation.—Photo: Courtesy of THE DALLAS TIMES-HERALD.

Charlie Evans is a professional organist who was once employed by KRLD radio and TV. He resigned to teach the organ full time, and has an organ in his home. John Beck, an airline pilot, has a T.O. stored which came from the Kirby Theatre in Houston. He is going to add on to his house to accommodate it. Among members of the local club are Gordon Wright, president of the Republic Savings and Loan; E. M. Johnson, group leader for electrical design at Bell Helicopter; Allen White, representative for Twentieth Century Fox and Bill Green, director of mechanical engineering of LTV.

The club is planning to sponsor the appearance of Gaylord Carter at the Palace Theatre in Dallas, along with a silent film. It may be recalled that the Palace houses a late Publix #1, 4-manual, 20-rank Wurlitzer.

OREGON

The Oregon Chapter has had two good summer meetings this year. The first was held at the home of Bob and Nadine Rickett in northeast Portland which houses a three-manual double bolster Wurlitzer with all the goodies in the book—gleaming Brass Trumpets and Sax, spicy English Horn, grating Krummett, pungent strings, sobbing tibias, etc.

Andy Crow—artist with the Rogers Organ Company—played a delightful concert on this organ. Andy knows this organ intimately and really brought out its best.

The business end of the meeting involved adopting our constitution and by-laws. The incorporation of our chapter is now officially completed.

Our August meeting was a Sunday potluck at the home of Ted and Cathy Marks. The event was to have been a picnic on their spacious grounds—with swimming pool. However, a cool rainy week drove us indoors. Thank goodness, Ted has only partially filled up his basement with his 3-manual 20-rank Kimball. So the food was terrific and the organ never sounded better.

The artist for the day was our good friend from the Puget Sound Chapter—Don French. Don played a variety of songs—from very old to very new with that theatre organ style that makes him such a favorite around here.

Our business meeting involved plans for several fall concerts.

—Gordon Potter
Sec'y.-Treas.

PIEDMONT

The trustees of Southeastern Community College have informed Piedmont Chairman Marion Martin with deepest regrets, that they will be unable to take RKO's offered organ, as the College Architect says the space needed for the installation of the instrument in the auditorium will be utilized in the immediate expansion plans of the college. At this time the chapter is looking for a home for the instrument. If you know of a high school, college, or civic center that can meet the agreements discussed at the last meeting, let Marion know at once. We would hate to lose this instrument.

A small but dedicated audience of Piedmonters gathered in Greensboro's beautiful Carolina Theatre, August 11th for a most delightful program of organ music, made even more enjoyable by the comfort and beauty of the recently refurbished palace.

The mighty Morton, while badly in need of tuning, never sounded better than it did as organists Frank B. Nether-

land, Paul Abernathy, Jane Sparks, Douglas Spivey, and Marion Martin guided it through a variety of musical stylings.

The 2-8 Robert Morton organ of the now demolished Center Theatre in Durham, presented to a private college by the theatre and removed for the college by our chapter, has been obtained by Dr. Paul Abernathy. We are happy to learn that this fine instrument, loved by all Piedmonters, is back in our midst and will soon be playing again. This puts Paul in that rare group of ATOE members that own two theatre organs. Congratulations, Paul, and thanks for rescuing our baby!

PUGET SOUND

That magic carpet got loose again around Puget Sound and headed straight north to Vancouver, B.C. for our second



ists were invited on the spot to play a duet. How they determined who would play which organ is still a mystery, but I think they must have drawn straws—Woody Presho played the pit Wurlitzer and fearless Dick "he'll play anything" Schrum played the Kabinet. From then on it was every man for himself—all unrehearsed and hilarious. (Martha, you better watch that Schrum guy—you have competition!)

It was about 30 minutes later that Korla Pandit was introduced and could get his magic carpet back off "tilt" with his musical around the world tour with the exotic Pandit sound.

A short walk took us to the St. Andrews-Wesley Church to hear the tremendous 4-96 Grand Organ played and described by its builder, Herald Keefer. Enthralled describes the audience when Mr. Keefer finished playing. A jam ses-



VANCOUVER DAY FOR PUGET SOUNDERS included a concert by Korla Pandit, shown at left at the console of the Vancouver Orpheum 3-11 Wurlitzer, and a stunt duet at TWO organs by Woody Presho at the Orpheum Wurlitzer, and ex-National Prez Dick Schrum on the Hallman 2-3 Kabinet Orgel.

annual visitation day, this time to again hear Korla Pandit's concert, but what happened? After sitting through and enjoying a delightful concert by Vancouver's Frank Menkin, we expected to have Korla appear; but instead it was announced by the master of ceremonies, Ted Holmes, that they had two complete organs—the big Wurlitzer in the pit and a second organ on the stage. The curtains opened and what appeared deserved another look. Here was what looked like a kitchen cabinet topped with small glass shutters. From behind the shutters stood the cutest set of pipes! Where you would expect to find the knives and forks were the two manuals and on each side were the famous pull stops. It was a 2-3 Judiciously Unified draw knob Kabinet Organ, manufactured by Hallman Organ Co. in Kitchener, Ontario.

Two of our most famous local organ-

sion (yes, really) on this great organ brought some very beautiful music by Dan Adamson, Tom Kaasa, Dick Schrum, Korla Pandit and Bill Hale.

The luncheon at the Chez Paree in nearby Burnaby, B.C. brought more music on a well known plug-in from Dick, Woody, Tom Kaasa, Wally Stephenson and Bill Hale. Visitors were welcome and invited to play a Seeburg-Smith 2-7 Unit Orchestra housed in a seminary in nearby Burnaby. Also, opened for visitors was the beautiful home of Charles & Blanche MacKenzie for a rousing jam session on their snappy 2-15 Robert Morton—a real collector's item from the original Vancouver Pantages Theatre by way of St. Phillips Church.

Thus ended another fun day—a very musical one—in Vancouver, with everyone well satisfied and looking forward to many more yearly visits.

—Mildred Lawrence

ST. LOUIS

May 29th, St. Louis Chapter was honored by an invitation from the Scottish Rite to hold our meeting at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. About 150 people, members of ATOE and the Scottish Rite, attended. After a short business meeting, George Swett showed movies of the removal of the St. Louis Theatre Kimball; then Emil Corte, assistant organist of the Scottish Rite, explained some of the history and interesting facts about the building. We next went on a tour of the building, including the organ chambers. Stan Kann and Dale Zieger were among those who played the Kimball concert organ.

The June meeting was held at the home of Paul and Billie Coates. The Coates home has several musical instruments, including a pipe organ under construction, player grand piano, harpsichord, and player reed organ.

St. Louis Chapter does not have meetings in the summer but work on the organ project continues. With the relay overhaul finished, we are now working on the console. With two magnets, two primaries and two secondary pneumatics for every stop tablet, the job will take quite awhile but good progress is being made; all secondaries being already finished. We have also started on re-leathering percussion actions and some chests.

Labor Day found our "organ moving club" at work again. We moved the Wurlitzer console and relay from one storage place to another. This console and relay (originally model 235) is for sale. We expect to move parts of our lift and the blower to the Kirkwood auditorium soon.

Visitors are always welcomed by St. Louis Chapter, even though we haven't many theatre organs going. Paul Fleming, formerly of Syracuse, N. Y., and the Empire State Museum project, who now lives in Kansas City, dropped in for a visit one evening in June while we were working on the console. We had a good time talking over various problems and experiences of organ rebuilding.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Smith of Los Angeles were out St. Louis way after attending a Theatre Projectionist Convention in Kansas City. Mr. Smith is a projectionist at the Pantages Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard. Dale and Barbara Zieger, our newlyweds, gave the Smiths the after-hours "Cook's Tour" of the Fox Theatre and organ. Dale is assistant organist at the Fox.

August 18th was the chapter picnic at the Ziegers' home. A sudden rainstorm kept everyone inside for an hour or so but the time was spent listening to records and playing Dale's highly customized Conn organ. Lt. Mark Scaramella, a member of Northern California Chap-

ter but temporarily on duty at Chanute AFB at Rantoul, Ill., drove the 170 miles to St. Louis after making a long-distance phone call to us just to talk about theatre organs. Although he claimed he was rusty from being away from an organ so long, we really thought his playing was great.

Detroit Chapter Chairman (now National President) Al Mason and wife, Betty, stopped off in St. Louis on the way to the Convention to visit with Stan Kann and the Fox, and with Fred Pillsbury and his home Wurlitzer which is nearing completion.

Dr. Bob Hines, from Cedar Rapids, Iowa (I hope that's right), called up while he was in town and inquired about our Kirkwood installation. Sorry, but we have about two more years' work on it to go. He reports a lot of TO activity in his area, with two organs going in theatres and soon a new ATOE chapter. We wish them good luck, and keep up the good work.

Future plans here include another silent movie and concert in October. Stan Kann will be the artist. We expect an overflow crowd. Everyone in St. Louis has heard Stan at the Fox, but doing a silent film will show another facet of his talent. The next chapter meetings are scheduled for the third Sunday evenings in September, October and November at the Kirkwood, Mo., Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

SOUTH FLORIDA

Sunday evening, August 4th, fifty members and guests descended upon the Coral Gables home of Bob and Vivian André for an official unveiling of their 2-12 theatre organ. By ranks it's like



SOUTH FLORIDA veteran theatre organist Harry Begrelow at the console of Robert André's 2-12 Morton-Wurlitzer-Moller during the chapter's August 4th meeting.

this: 6 Morton, 4 Wurlitzer, and 2 Moller. Originally the basic organ was a 2-7 Morton which came from Willoughby, Ohio (Dick Hull started on this one). Since then Bob has enlarged it accordingly, making the installation in two very divided chambers. In the course of the evening the organ was played by chairman John Steele, Harry Gabrelow and Dr. Robert Edwards. Only those

who have ever been involved with installing an organ know the extent of money, time and sweat to accomplish the feat, and then it's never really finished. Hats are off to Bob and Vivian for providing a successful chapter meeting and allowing us at long last to see and hear what they've been doing.

Indication was made as to progress of the Calvin Jureit organ currently undergoing modification and addition of three ranks. Contact has also been made with the Olympia Theatre manager in downtown Miami relative to resuming work on that Wurlitzer style 260. Reception was very gratifying as Mr. James Barnett, resident manager, indicated they would welcome a conscientious resumption of organ restoration.

— G. W. Gerhart

Closing Chord

THEATRE ORGAN BOMBARDE learns with regret of the passing of two ATOE Chapter Chairmen. Ron Freeman, chairman of the recently organized South Texas Chapter, and Chicago Chapter chairman Bob Mueller were both taken suddenly and within a few days of each other. Sympathy of the National and the membership is extended to the families and many friends of the two men.

Georgia Templeton, organist who toured the major vaudeville circuits, died in Roseburg, Ore., April 28. She also toured as part of a mentalist act with her brother, George Lovett. Survived by a sister, Elsa Lovett, who is a violinist.

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