

## 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 releathering 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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