

THE COVER PHOTO

The famous 4-20 Oriental Wurlitzer console after redecoration by members of CATOE. This organ was recorded by Arsene Siegal and Helen Westbrook on the Replica Record label in the 1950's. The story on Farewell to the Oriental appears on page 5 of this issue.

Photo by Bill Lamb



Theatre Organ Bombarde

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In This Issue

Editorial — Al Mason	3
An Acre of Seats	4
Farewell to the Oriental	5
Whatever Became of Mary Jean Miller	6
A Farewell to Loew's Ohio	9
Dennis James Thrills RTOS	8
New York Hosts 14th Anniversary	10
National Board of Directors Meeting	11
Helen Dell Warns Damp Audience	12
Au Revoir to Boyd Kimball	12
DTOC's Good Fortune — Don Miller	13
Larsen Visit Thrills Disabled Fan	14
Organ Literature Foundation Moves	15
ATOE Election — Special Editorial	15
Let's Communicate	16
Repairing and Rewinding Wurlitzer Magnets	17
The Organ Plays "Golden Favorites"	19
1969 Convention Schedule	22
Chicago Stadium's Barton	24
Dick Schrum Entertains RTOS	25
Hollywood Cavalcade	26
For the Records	26
Vox Pops	30
Disc Squeals	33
Nuggets from the Golden Days	34
Theatre Organ Magazine's 10th Birthday	35
Chapter Chairmen and Secretaries	38
Chapter News	39
Classified Ads	42

TO PRESERVE THE THEATRE ORGAN

When we started many years ago as a group of hobbyists, the idea of 'preserving' meant to remove and take home a theatre organ or sit around under a drop light in a dark auditorium with a large group of six or seven and moon over the death of the instruments. Times have changed. We now have new responsibilities.

The real sound is developed in large spaces. Even the largest home must have artificial reverb to give full dimension for the pipe's abilities. The development of young artists to carry on the use of the instruments we are preserving demands access to a public willing to pay for their entertainment and that means either theatres or other public auditoriums. This movement is developing.

Doesn't our success now mean that we should, as chapters at least, turn more of our attention to the restoration in place or use in schools of the organs remaining rather than just being a social group? If we give the owner or management some reason to see that there are people willing to pay for their fun then the king of instruments becomes an asset rather than a nuisance.

Social life with other interested people is fun and an integral part of our chapter life but it doesn't give our favorite music much future. Support your local chapter by joining it as well as the national. Maybe there are more members in your area who would enjoy having a chapter.

Come to the Chicago Convention, have fun and also learn the ropes on producing shows featuring the pipes and silent movies.



Al Mason

— Al Mason, President

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