

a midnight conference, at which I was ordered to play the organ so that the new man could get an idea of what kind of sound was desired and required. The poor fellow just couldn't give what was demanded; he got his notice the following evening and the management had to eat crow because of the big buildup that had been given the new organist in the press. That experience taught me that one should never buy a pig in a poke — particularly when the pig is an organist.

Liquor would bring about accidents in our fraternity. I know of at least two well-known organists who used to get so full that they would fall off the organ seats. Both of them did it by taking their bows and not remembering to come up again. One of them landed in the orchestra pit. He just bowed until he disappeared.

With all its vicissitudes, the theatre-organ period was a good one in which to be young. There was individualistic opportunity, innocence and joyfulness (call it naivete if you like), and creativity on a small but eminently satisfying scale. Even if things went haywire; at least you had something to talk about afterward. What's a hippy got to talk or laugh about?

P.S. In those days we found the organs complete; they had all their pipes and parts in them. □

## LAND O'LAKES CHAPTER PRODUCES RECORD TO HELP GORDON KRIST

"Just for the Fun of It" is the name of a record produced by our Chapter. When Gordon Krist attended his first meeting with our Chapter, members who knew of his unusual ability at the organ urged him to play the 2/5 Special B Wurlitzer at the home of Don Peterson. Fortunately the tape recorder was on and it is from this tape that the record was made. When Gordon first heard the record he asked Don Peterson, who's idea this was, how they dubbed in the drums — Don replied, "We didn't — this is all your doing".

The reason for making this record is a most unhappy one. A few months ago, while in Chicago, Gordon suffered an aneurysm resulting in brain surgery. His left side is completely paralyzed. The final outcome is hopeful but he faces many, many months of therapy. As mentioned on a local radio show, Gordon was without insurance. Gordon, who is 30, had been playing organ at the Ranch House Restaurant in Minneapolis, in a dining room reserved for organ music devotees, where one could enjoy Gordon's playing with a mini-

# NEW MUSIC FOR THEATRE ORGAN

During the past 40 years very little original music has been composed for the theatre organ. Thousands of arrangements of popular tunes and transcriptions have been printed, but publishers will give a "researched" opinion concerning any original organ compositions: "It won't sell."

Early this year one of the major publishing houses in New York City approached Lee Erwin with the idea of putting together a folio of theatre organ music. Mr. Bernard Kalban, Director of Publications for Edward B. Marks Music Corp. had read a review, in The New York Times, of an ATOE event at the Academy of Music Theatre on 14th Street where Lee had performed his score for the Valentino silent film "The Eagle," and Mr. Kalban had come to the conclusion that it was time for some original organ material to be published.

As a result of considerable negotiation with Lee and ATOE President, Al Mason, E. B. Marks is embarking upon the publication of the first theatre organ music folio. □

A group of outstanding performers, active in ATOE, have been asked to contribute original materials for inclusion within the book, which will be under the general editorship of member Lee Erwin.

Already contributing are Don Baker, Al Bollington, Jeff Barker, Allen Mills, Lee Erwin, Eddie Weaver and Rosa Rio. Manuscripts have also been promised by Ann Leaf, Ashley Miller, Gaylord Carter and Lyn Larsen.

ATOE members have long been asking for a collection of compositions by stellar theatre artists, members. So many times they have asked for those identification marks, styles, sounds of the organists heard in person and on records. This new folio, to be published in September, affords the opportunity to play like the artists, in a variety of moods.

President Al Mason has announced that this publication "will broaden exposure for the renaissance of the big music makers." The Edward B. Marks Music Corp. feels that the folio will be an important contribution to its 75th Anniversary Year. We are all glad that Mr. Kalban read about Lee Erwin in the New York Times. Let's hope that this folio will only be the first of many yet to be published! □

mum of conversation from adjoining tables. Spontaneous applause from diners was commonplace.

Gordon, who is self-taught, credits his success as a musician to being a good listener! Hoping to be on an outpatient basis in July he will resume teaching, hopefully full time.

"Just for the Fun of It" will sell for \$1.00 plus postage. It is a 7 inch, 33 1/3 record with two numbers, "Spanish Flea" and "The Way You Look Tonight". The U A Recording Studio in Minneapolis, where Gordon is known, offered, at no cost, the use of their studios and equipment for cleaning the tape and the work of cutting the record will be done for us at cost. The Chapter members are assuming the job of gluing the gloss cover to the cardboard sleeve. The entire proceeds, after cost, will go to Gordon. With modern technology the recording is good. Gordon's unique styling and versatility at the organ are proudly presented by our Chapter. "Just for the Fun of It" is available from the Chapter secretary. □



"My sincere admiration for the superb music that Gordon Krist has created throughout the years. I had occasion to hear him perform on my Fall tour. It was an experience not soon to be forgotten." JOHN SENG

Stricken with paralysis of the left side following brain surgery, it will be a long time before Gordon Krist is heard again.

The 7 inch 33 1/2 R.P.M. record is the only theatre pipe organ recording of Gordon Krist now available. Features "Spanish Flea" and "The Way You Look Tonight".

Send \$1.00 plus 25c for postage and handling to:

**Land O'Lakes Chapter, ATOS  
16925 Linden Drive  
Minnetonka, Minn. 55343**

All proceeds from record sales will help to defray expenses of Gordon Krist's rehabilitation.