



DAIRYLAND

Members of the newly-formed Dairyland Chapter herded together at the Mini-Michigan Theatre in Racine, Wisconsin for their organizational meeting and elected the following officers:

Fred Hermes, Chairman; Robert Leutner, Vice-Chairman; Lowell McNeill, Treasurer; Karen Steinke, Secretary, and Dan Barton, Honorary Lifetime Chairman and Honorary Member.

Immediately after the business meeting, the new chapter members were entertained by David Olson of Milwaukee as he buttered them up with some fancy new sounds from the 5/30 Wurli. Fred Hermes, Jr., then rode the console and churned out a creamy arrangement from the "Sound of Music" score against a lavishly lit backdrop from the Brenograph. Fred's dad then horned in with a Laurel & Hardy silent with only a few sour notes after which the organ was turned over to the chapter members.

Following the entertainment, everyone hoofed it over to a local restaurant for dinner.

— Fred Hermes

LAND O'LAKES

Clyde Olson was featured organist at the home of Betty and John Zetterstrom at our May meeting. We have described Clyde's ability at the console frequently and all we have said still holds. With a mirror placed above the organ we had the additional treat of watching Clyde play. It bears repeating that watching his adeptness at finger substitution is an event of its own. His version of "There are Smiles" done in a perky patter style was just one of the highlights of the concert.

John has a Conn Theatre organ which Clyde is thoroughly familiar with

since he is in the business of renting them along with other electronics. John has a Leslie speaker plus a separate reverb cornered at the side of the organ. The organ is placed facing the room and, as John says, with the bench against the wall you get a cheap version of a Howard Seat.

Following this meeting we adjourned to Clyde's home for a first look and demonstration of the new three manual Conn. This is quite an instrument if pipes are out of the question.

We are sorry to report the loss of member Frank Rogers. Frank died on June 7th. He had won world acclaim for his skill in designing effects and his use of the Brenograph Effects Machine.

Discussions pertaining to the Chapter recording of Gordon Krist were held during our June meeting at the home of Charlotte and Bill Eckley. We also had a supply of two other records of Gordon's for members who wished to purchase them. While done on electronics, several phone calls have been received from members who purchased them, just to say how much they like them. We had our first meeting with a Schober organ and Bill Eckley did a great job in building it. Complete with a great percussion section, it was shown off at its best with Don Taft at the keyboard. In describing the program he would play, Don said he had one prepared but having read that certain numbers were played and recorded too often, he, one by one, crossed off all of his selections. Taking suggestions of his wife, Ethel, Don prepared a new program of operettas and show tunes, starting with the old and working up to the new, showing that the tunes that survive and are loved all have a lovely basic melody. It was a beautiful, interesting program, thought provoking as we tried to remember the names of old familiar tunes which we don't hear often enough.

— Irene Blegen, Secretary

LOS ANGELES

On May 2 at a general membership business meeting, recommendations for revisions to the National By-Laws and Uniform Chapter Charter Agreement were formulated. The joint American Guild of Organists (AGO)/ATOEOrgan crawl on May 24 proved to be very popular with ATOE. The AGO had to charter an extra bus, and, due to the interest, two additional pipe chamber visits were included. We are enjoying a very fine relationship with the local AGO chapter. Another crawl is planned tentatively for August. The May 25 Bill Thomson concert on the

4/37 Kimball in the Wiltern drew over 900 members, their families and guests. A unique aspect of the concert involved large display cards illustrating various South American rhythms. Bill described each rhythm, then played a number which illustrated it. At the conclusion of his encore, and to his surprise, Bill was pulled to stage center by Program Director Andy Rimmer while the entire audience sang "Happy Birthday," with organ accompaniment by Del Castillo. At the jam session that afternoon many members took their turns at the Elks 4/61 Morton console. The San Gabriel Mission installation (3/14 Wurlitzer) is progressing in fine style, and re-leathering has been more than half completed. A chapter member who wishes to remain anonymous has donated \$5000 to the project. Meanwhile, back at the Wiltern, Maintenance Chairman Ross Farmer and his crew have relocated the Kimball toy counter closer to the solo chamber swell shutters for more distinct effects. The members' playing plan for the Elks Morton is still enjoying good response from the membership under coordinators Bob and Ruth Stratton. On June 22 members and guests were treated to an extraordinary concert by the famous "Fast Freight Eddie" Dunstedter, "Mr. Pipe Organ." Eddie's concert is reviewed elsewhere in this issue.

The summer and fall series of events is now being planned, with a local organ crawl being studied. Conn artist Don Baker is set to play a concert on the Wiltern Kimball on Sept. 9. Preliminary planning is in progress for a joint concert meeting at Fresno this fall in participation with NorCal and Sierra ATOE chapters.

— Ray Bonner, Chairman

MOTOR CITY

Ordinarily, Motor City Chapter does not schedule events for the summer months, but a notable exception took place on July 11 at the Senate Theater, home of the Detroit Theater Organ Club and the 4/34 Orbits Wurlitzer.

Members of Motor City, the DTOC, and a sizeable number of members of other chapters who had delayed their homeward journey from the National Convention in Chicago in order to be present, heard an informal program by that spectacular young California artist, Tom Hazelton.

Tom was in Detroit to demonstrate for the Allen Organ Company, and was made available through their generosity, personified by "Gus" Gustafson and the cooperation of the DTOC.

Since the demonstration for Allen took place earlier that same evening, poor Tom had to finish that and then

made a mad dash to the Senate, where his second audience had been hearing a discussion of some of the Convention highlights by President Al Mason and M.C. Ben Hall, mustache and all.

But if Tom's prior labors had wearied him, there was absolutely no evidence of it as he bounded onto the stage, took the 34 ranks enthusiastically in hand, and treated the crowd to some of the most spectacular playing ever heard at the DTOC; and a good deal has been heard there, to be sure.

Tom claimed to have "set pistons the previous evening and spent 30 seconds practicing". If so, this must have been the most profitable 30 seconds ever invested at this instrument.

His mastery of the organ and of the music was complete. He has the ability to immerse himself completely in the mood of a selection, and his style is crystalline in its crispness and clarity. On top of this, his registration was colorful and varied, and perfectly suited to such various items as "Stripper", "If He Walked Into My Life", "By The Time I Get To Phoenix", and a stunning medley from "Fiddler on the Roof".

This was an unusually fine program played by one of the finest of artists in the peak of form, on an outstanding organ.

At the end, Tom announced that his new recording, made on the Bob Carson Studio organ, would be released soon. If it is anything like what was heard at the DTOC on July 11, fair readers, get it. FAST!

—Ben Levy

NIAGARA FRONTIER

On April 19, a large group of members from our chapter made their way to the Auditorium Theatre in Rochester to hear the one and only George Wright. This was his second concert for the RTOS, and those who've heard him will agree that Mr. Wright is really deserving of his fame because of his command over the organ and because his personality "outshines every star" (to take the words from a song).

Rochester organist Alan Ross played the Riviera Wurlitzer on April 23. The disagreeable weather didn't hurt attendance; the theatre was almost full. The program was a collection of medleys that took us back through time — back, in fact, to the swinging 1920's. Every sort of music — show tunes, Hawaiian music, big band numbers, popular hits, and even a light classic — was performed by Mr. Ross with the greatest amount of ability and ease. A silent movie and sing-along rounded out this wonderful evening of entertainment.

There was an extra chapter concert by Colin Corbett at the Odeon-Carlton Theatre's Hillgreen-Lane organ on Sunday, April 27 in Toronto, Canada. Colin is an excellent musician, and he plays the only remaining theatre organ in Canada.

Mr. Corbett also performed at the Riviera's Wurlitzer on May 21 for over 850 people. His selections for the evening included many favorites. Among them were "mood music," show tunes, blues numbers, Latin tunes, and the score of the fabulous movie "Oliver!" Two Chopin waltzes and a silent movie and sing-along slides completed the evening's repertoire. Colin was a real hit with the audience.

At the time of the Rochester concert an exclusive interview was arranged with George Wright by your correspondent and we found Mr. Wright to be very cooperative and from him we discovered that he began organ playing at the age of eleven, studied harmony with Jesse Crawford, has a liking for all kinds of music (if well done), has produced at least 26 records, is at the present time working on a disc that will feature "rock and roll", and has been doing the music for T.V.'s General Hospital for seven years. George stated that he has enjoyed the TV scoring very much.

—Shirley Cole

OHIO VALLEY

Our news in this issue is a report on the year 1968-69 — July through June respectively. The July meeting greeted the newly elected officers and board members namely: Chairman — George V. Eaglin; Vice-Chairman — Jack E. Tarr; Secretary-Treasurer — Glenn E. Merriam. Board Members in addition to the aforementioned officers are: Spencer Avery, John J. Strader and Ed Wuest.

The September meeting was held at the Baldwin Organ and Piano Company plant in Cincinnati. The group of over 100 persons was treated to a demonstration concert on the new Baldwin Theatre Organ, Model PR 200 by the fabulous Eddie Osborn. Eddie proceeded to show us the many capabilities of this professional instrument, using current hits as well as more traditional theatrical type selections. Following his stint at the PR 200, Eddie did a few encores and then introduced John Tolleson who indeed is a professional musician in many respects. He is also a member of the Baldwin staff. John proceeded to dazzle his listeners with several numbers, not only at the organ but also at the Baldwin piano including vocals. Both performers topped out the

festivities with a swinging duo of Osborn at the organ and Tolleson at the piano. The chapter was very grateful to fellow members Eddie Osborn, John Tolleson, and the Baldwin Company officials for an evening of fun and music.

The month of October saw everyone in the chapter working hard toward promoting the concert given by Gaylord "Flicker Fingers" Carter at the Albee Theatre. For details on this concert refer to the February 1969 issue of Theatre Organ-Bombarde. The Albee Wurlitzer was not in condition to be used for this show so the Gulbransen Rialto Theatre Organ took its place and many people in the audience with Gaylord Carter himself commented on the wonderful performance of this instrument. Gaylord Carter presented a most enjoyable evening of entertainment.

The November meeting took the group to Vandalia, Ohio — about 60 miles north of Cincinnati to the home of a 3/15 Barton Theatre Organ originally from the Paramount Theatre in Hamilton, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Waldsmith hosted the chapter for this meeting which took place on a dreary rainy evening; however, the weather didn't dampen the spirits of any organ enthusiast. This meeting was well attended by over 100 persons. The evening's program was presented by Van Jones, a student at the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music.

The officials of the City of Vandalia, Ohio were on hand to greet and welcome our chapter to their city.

The January meeting marked the absence of our Chapter Chairman George Eaglin. George and his wife Thelma were visiting in Portland, Maine. Vice-Chairman Jack Tarr presided at this January meeting which took place in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Doll and Jack Doll, Jr. in Price Hill, Cincinnati. Host Jack Doll, Jr. described his basement installation that consists of a 3 manual Wicks Horseshoe Console with 10 ranks of Casavant pipes, plus accessories, including a Baldwin cabinet player. Jack demonstrated both "Live" and piano roll renditions for the group and many attendees accepted the invitation to take a turn at the console. This installation is a very interesting one, since the organist is surrounded by open pipework.

The April meeting was held at the Ohio College of Applied Sciences, the new home of the Albee Theatre Organ. Present plans call for this organ to be installed in Emery Auditorium of OCAS. The business part of this meeting was brief and dealt mainly with the

Albee Organ project. The individuals who have been working on the removal of the organ from Albee Theatre were recognized by Chapter Chairman George Eaglin who expressed his appreciation and thanks to those persons who have been doing a remarkable job. George also gave personal recognition to Bob Ridgeway for the splendid manner in which he has guided this restoration project. For this meeting Jack Schooley of the Schooley Piano and Organ Company provided their new 3 manual Conn Theatre organ. The artist was Herb Wottle who of course, always does a tremendous job. Herb provided a variety of tunes during the course of his concert. Vickie Cribbett, one of Herb's music students also performed at the Conn Console and did an excellent job.

OREGON

Artist Don Simmons returned to the Oaks Park roller rink to give the Oregon chapter a rousing concert on June 15th. Don featured some of the big band sounds that he popularized in two recordings on this instrument. His technique with the rink organ brought cheers from the members. The organ is a 4/17 Wurlitzer formerly installed in the Broadway theatre in Portland. It features all the "goodies" such as Brass section, post horn and complete percussion section. The installation is somewhat unique in that the organ is exposed and suspended from the ceiling of the rink directly over the skating floor. This arrangement makes for interesting listening in that one can walk about under the organ and hear different sounds accentuated from the various corners of the rink.

After the concert we adjourned for a business meeting followed by a very interesting slide show giving some of the details of the Oriental theatre organ. Chairman Bob Burke photographed the console and chambers of this organ and assembled the slide show that was enjoyed by all the members.

Following the meeting, open house was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Duffy for any members wishing to try their hand at the newly installed Aeolian Theatre organ.

—G. Duffy, Secretary

PUGET SOUND

Our chapter has been very active in the past months. On February 2, Don Isham was presented at the console of the Paramount Wurlitzer organ, bringing back memories of the early 20's when he played in the Seattle theatres. Don was owner of the Aurora Roller Bowl and played for the skaters before it was destroyed by fire in the early

50's. The group then journeyed to Big Bob's Pizza Place in Federal Way where Bob Koons, owner, has installed a 2/5 Robert Morton. Members were invited to try out the mighty little organ and a good time was had by all.

Val and Lee Bauscher were hosts for the March meeting. George Peterson, who has played many theatre organs in his time, was the artist. Members were invited to try their hand at the 3/11 Wurlitzer and among those accepting were Eddie Zollman, Jean Galyean, Dick Schrum, Lou Wells, Tom Hobbs, Dan Adamson, Warren Doolittle and many others.

The chapter sponsored a program for the students at an assembly in the Queen Anne High School in Seattle during March.

The high school auditorium has a very fine eleven rank Kimball Theatre Organ which has not been used for several years. It was found that the future of this organ was in doubt, therefore some members of the chapter felt the organ should be heard by the student body to create interest.

Dick Schrum played a program of music slanted to teenagers which of course was received with great enthusiasm. Dick's playing introduced a "New" sound to the audience, most of whom had never heard the sound of a real live pipe organ. As a result of this, another concert was planned.

The second concert, given on May 2 by Jonas Nordwall, was an exciting experience. Both organ and artist were very impressive. The enthusiasm and support shown by Puget Sound Chapter were heartening. We now hope to help establish a working club within the school that may function in producing silent movie programs as well as concerts and develop musical talent for playing theatre organ and accompanying silent movies.



At the Centralia Fox (left to right) Tom Solberg and Andy Crow, both of Olympia and Eddie Zollman of Seattle.

We journeyed to Olympia and Centralia on May 25, 1969. The session began in Olympia at the Olympic Theatre with a jam session for members and a concert by Andy Crow. Andy did most of the work in restoring this organ several years ago. A dinner and business meeting was held at the Nor'Wester Restaurant in Centralia. Eddie Zollman was presented in concert on the Fox Wurlitzer in the afternoon. He opened the Centralia Fox just 39 years ago playing the opening concerts and intermission sessions at the console. Eddie is retired now and it seemed right that he should play the closing concert as the organ has been sold to Tom Solberg of Olympia who will install it in his home. At the business meeting, Tom Solberg presented a plaque to Eddie showing him at the console of the Fox Wurlitzer when he was playing there. This was a thrill for Eddie and his family.



The signing of the agreement with Haller Lake Improvement Club on June 5, 1969. Seated, Mrs. Paula Beauchamp, Past HLIC President, Les Lehne, Chairman Puget Sound Chapter. Standing, Harry Harkness, HLIC Co-ordinator, William R. Ross, present HLIC President, and Russ Evans, ATOE Co-ordinator.

The most important event for our chapter was finding a home for our organ. On June 5, an agreement with the Haller Lake Improvement Club was signed and our organ will be installed in their club building. Sunday, June 29, was open house at the club and members saw where the organ will be installed. Installation will begin the first of July and should be finished by the end of summer. The Haller Lake Improvement Club is most enthusiastic about the installation and they will have the privilege of renting the organ for their functions, as several members of their club are also members of our chapter.

Our annual trip across the border to Canada will be on July 20, when we travel to Vancouver, B.C. for the day, meeting at the Orpheum Theatre for a concert by Don Stagg, lunch at Stanley Park Clubhouse and visiting home installations in the afternoon.

—Virginia Lawrence, Secretary

ST. LOUIS

Approximately 120 members and guests of ATOE were present at the May Midnite meeting. Stan Kann, Dale Zieger and John Ferguson played the excellent program. After the program, members and guests played the organ, inspected the console and some of the pipe chambers. Many guests were AGO members. We hope they will come back often.

Stan Kann has sold his house and is moving at the end of June. This means we must move the console, relay and piano. Yesterday Al Baum put a hole in the concrete floor of the basement in the Kirkwood Auditorium in preparation for the installation of the lift for the console. The relay will be moved into the basement within the next three weeks. Ned Lustig has volunteered storage for the piano. We now need work space for the console and other work which is to follow. The space needed is roughly equivalent to a single car garage.

The Executive Board of the Chapter will meet the first Monday of the month. This will provide an opportunity to take care of business between regular Chapter meetings.

SIERRA

A beautiful, sunny Sunday afternoon, found Sierra Chapter members and guests enjoying a picnic lunch at Ancil Hoffman Park in Carmichael, California. Having satisfied their appetites, the group drove a mile to the home of Hal and Betty Wilmunder where installation of the former San Francisco Fox mezzanine Moller had just been completed.

As we entered the studio beneath a sign stating "Home of the Beast", Stu Boyer, cocktail organist at Carl Greer Inn entertained us at the console and the organ sounded beautiful. The 3/12 Moller is located in a studio that was formerly a large shop and garage. The very ornate console is located between two triangular chambers at one end of the studio. Directly behind it stands a cabinet containing the player-roll attachment. The rest of the studio is occupied by chairs for the guests. The console is lighted by spotlights concealed in the ceiling. At the present time, the studio is unfinished, but Hal plans to panel the room in rosewood. Two large double doors can be opened, enabling guests to sit on the patio under the lime trees and enjoy the music.

In addition to Stu, George Seaver also played for us. Following George's concert, Hal played a tape made just before the organ was removed from the theatre. A player roll of "Nola" brought roars of laughter. The organ

sounded much like a very loud band-organ with very heavy brass. Don Zeller then took the floor to make a pitch for Eddie Dunstedter's new record, recorded on the Greer Inn Morton. As could be expected, the record is Eddie at his best. A jam session followed. Our twelve year old member Harry Weeks, did an outstanding job. It always amazes me to see these youngsters seat themselves in the maw of the big instruments and unconcernedly play lovely music.

I forgot to mention an uninvited guest who obviously enjoyed the program thoroughly. A bird sat atop the T.V. antenna and sang lustily every time the organ played. Someone really should have played "Quiet Village". Who needs a bird whistle on the organ with the real thing available?

—Bob Longfield

SOONER STATE

The Sooner State Chapter gave the 3/10 Robert Morton at the Christian Crusade Auditorium in Tulsa quite a work out during May. On the 13th, we were host to the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Phil Judkins, who maintains the organ, talked on the history of theatre organ and demonstrated theatre organ stops and voicings. Chapter Treasurer, Joe Crutchfield, played a diversified program then AGO guests were invited to try the organ.

Bob Foley from Wichita was the guest artist on the 16th for our first silent movie program. Special thanks to Bob for an excellent job of improvising background music for the films.

—Joe Crutchfield

SOUTH FLORIDA

May 25 presented a new twist in South Florida as a meeting of the recently appointed board of directors took place at the Calvin Jureit residence preceding a gathering of the membership. Purpose of this Board meeting was to discuss plans for the ensuing season and create a calendar of events thereby eliminating the erratic nature of meetings in the past. Except for May 25, programs were never previously planned.

It was decided that a program chairman would be appointed who would contact artists to play at scheduled Chapter functions for a fee. Highlights of the evening took place as Chairman John Steele started the musical portion with several selections on the Jureit organ, always a genuine treat. John explained to everyone that a few changes were evident in the organ, in-

cluding new wind lines. A different method of tuning was employed.

Next we were favored by the presence of Reggie Foort who previously had promised to play for us. This of course had been long anticipated and no one was disappointed as Reggie is plainly enough the wizard of any console. He presented several selections which were recognized from his many recordings.

Over 70 members and guests were able to enjoy this fine evening with our favorite music maker—a real live theatre organ. Cal and Mildred Jureit outdid themselves again as our genial hosts. Sincere thanks to them and everyone else for a successful gathering.

—G. W. Gerhart

KAW VALLEY

An especially enjoyable afternoon was spent, Sunday, May 25, in the beautiful, new home of Bud and Ruby Jennings and their two sons, Jerry and Tom.

As the members and guests arrived, they were treated to a tour of this lovely home, then a short business meeting was held, and a decision was made to ask a professional organist to perform at the June meeting in Chairman Luther Cortelyou's home.

After the business meeting, Jerry Jennings, who is the youngest member of the chapter as well as one of the most talented, delighted his guests by playing pop tunes of today and yesterday, creating a variety of pleasant impressions as he entertained on his Thomas organ. A highlight was his rendition of an arrangement of "Battle Hymn of the Republic," which was especially appropriate since it was only a few days before Memorial Day.

Five other members and a guest each played several selections which added up to an afternoon of contrasting styles and fine entertainment.

During the social hour, any members who wished to try out the organ were encouraged to do so.

The Jennings were most gracious hosts.
—Lucille Underwood

**Attend the 1971
AGO Convention
HONOLULU, JULY 2 - 8
Details in October
Theatre Organ-Bombarde**