



CHICAGO AREA

At the Oriental Theatre on September 30th, CATOE Chairman, Bill Benedict, welcomed the estimated crowd of 2500 and introduced our organist John Muri, who is indeed no stranger to CATOE audiences. John started his concert with a modern and different approach as a tribute to the Space Age then turned to some old favorites inspired by the solar system. For music designed to appeal to Chicagoans — namely pieces Jesse Crawford played in Chicago — John included "Blue Twilight," "Dance of the Blue Danube" and the nostalgic "Forgotten Melody" (Crawford's radio theme signature music). He made extremely good use of all four manuals during the "Dance of the Blue Danube". The hit of the evening was John's rendition of Zes Confrey's "Kitten on the Keys", which literally brought down the house. The audience couldn't get enough of this remarkable man, organ, and music.

John's use of the Oriental organ's reed section throughout the evening was tasteful and elaborate. His sing-along selections showed the audience to be as enthusiastic in their singing as in organ appreciation.

CATOE's mirrored ball was featured during intermission and John played with it still revolving after intermission. The ball is a real crowd smoother and it was so good to see it in use again.

John accompanied two short comedies featuring Mack Swain in "The Movie Star" and Laurel and Hardy in "Liberty". He never missed a cue, playing to please his audience which is a lesson other performers might find worthwhile learning.

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings have been set up as regular work times on the Downers Grove North High School project. A target date of Nov. 17th has been set for completion of the installation.

Fred Kruse, Paul Lewis and Bill Barry have been working on the Baker Hotel's Geneva pipe organ Monday evenings. They've cleaned reeds, tuned pipes and with Bette Peterson's re-leathering ability, have rebuilt the Glockenspiel. The organ can be heard every Sunday afternoon for four hours. Our crew says it's a nice place to have Sunday dinner and relax to pipe organ music.

Work is continuing on the club-owned Kimball organ, recently removed from the Senate Theatre, Chicago.

CONNECTICUT VALLEY

The October 11 meeting was held at the home of Anita and Irv Twomey in Manchester. The Twomeys have an extensive and exceptionally fine collection of music boxes and other mechanical musical instruments including Steinway Duo-Art and Mason and Hamlin Ampico reproducing pianos which recreate the exact playing, shading and expression of the artists who recorded the rolls. But Irv, who is President of The Musical Box Society, International, is justly proud of what he refers to as "the biggest musical box of them all", his 2/7 Wurlitzer.

The Twomeys and a few friends removed the organ from a theatre which had been closed for some time a year ago Mothers' Day, and officially unveiled the instrument last Christmas. In between were about 1,000 man-hours of labor done mostly by people who had never seen the innards of such an instrument before. With some guidance from ATOS members who were familiar with the installation of a theatre organ in a home, and the ingenuity of research engineers, the Twomeys wound up with an exceptionally fine home installation.

All the noisy components, relays, regulators and tremolos, were located in a separate room so that the chamber is quiet. Also, without the tangle of regulators and wind lines under the chests, the chests were kept low, and both pipes and actions are very accessible for maintenance. All pipes were cleaned including reed tongues and shallots, and some tonal regulation was done to give a balanced sound in the basement music room. The motion of the swell shades was reduced to achieve a smoother swell and to scale the overall loudness of the instrument to the size of the room. In this respect, this Wurlitzer installation is most successful.

Although the Twomeys were used to music box restorations where the intent is to have everything as it was originally, they were persuaded to make a

few changes in the organ which enhance its versatility. A separate Tibia Tremolo was added, as well as Octave and Sub Octave Couplers on the Solo manual. The Mason and Hamlin Grand piano is being added, and a second swell shoe will operate the piano expression through the Ampico mechanism.



Alan Ross at Twomey's 2/7 Wurlitzer.

DAIRYLAND

The Dairyland Chapter held its spring meeting at the Capitol Theatre in Racine, Wisconsin. The organist was a young star, Tom Gnaster, from the Chicago area. He played several beautiful arrangements with clarity and brilliance. The organ, maintained by Century Organ of Villa Park in excellent condition, gave out with brilliant sounds not thought possible with a five ranker. Door prizes were awarded to chapter members. The theatre and organ use was through the courtesy of Ted With-eril, one of our chapter members.

The opening fall meeting was held at the home of Robert and Millie Ludwig, Sand Hill Farms, in Grafton, Wis. The concert was played by David Olson on a custom Allen with multiple stereo cabinet speakers. Mr. Olson played Broadway show tunes and ballads in a style all his own which was appreciated by those attending.

— Fred J. Hermes

DELAWARE VALLEY

Although our joint meeting with the New York Chapter at the Surf City Hotel was earlier than usual this year (September 7th), we had a good crowd. Nearly 200 people showed up for the event with almost equal representation for each chapter. In addition we had several guests from outlying areas. For example, from Niagara Frontier we welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Randy Piazza — chapter chairman and charming wife, Joe and Laura Thomas of Lancaster, N. Y. and the entire Cole family (Shir-

ley Cole is editor of the Niagara Frontier's newsletter, *Silent Newsreel*.)

The famed 3/15 Wurlitzer which has made this resort hotel "Organ Headquarters" along the Jersey coast was in good voice. This instrument is played and maintained by Bill Floyd — assisted by Eddie Buck — and has recently been improved by the installation of a new chrysoglott and a rank of capped oboe horns. It is now planned that a new blower will be installed to "drive" a total of sixteen ranks.

Because of obligations elsewhere Bill Floyd could not be present, but genial Eddie Buck led off a long list of performers and then assisted with registration for the benefit of those unfamiliar with pipe organs. Marshall Ladd was also in fine voice — a requirement for an MC at these affairs who must be heard above the general hubbub. Marshall was assisted by Joe Elicker during dinner (things were a little more quiet by then).

Space makes it impossible to review any of the performances since over thirty organists played. An attempt will be made to mention everyone who played, but if we missed your name (or it's not spelled correctly) please forgive and mark it up to the general confusion. We inquired (loudly) for the name of one of the artists and the only answer we got was "On the Rocks" — now we know there isn't any organist with a crazy name like that! The Delaware Valley was well represented in terms of talent (not in the order of appearance) by: Garrett Paul, Ed Weimer, Dennis James, Jane Stopyra, Rev. George MacNeal, Shirley Han-num, Biff Clafin, Mary Bowles, Robert Leyshon, Herb Daroff, Ethyl Bleasdale, Woody Flowers, Al Hermanns, Bill Tabor, Dottie (MacClain) Whitcomb, Dick Schmidt, Fred Kelley, Lou Good, Terry Surratt, Marshall Ladd and Grant Whitcomb. Also Lee Bounds from Wilmington and Evelyn Becker.

— Grant Whitcomb

LAND O'LAKES

WHATEVER BECAME OF . . . that "Golden Age of Theatre" when theatre organs, and theatres, were in their prime? Those good old days have become only a fond memory to the more mature members of American society and almost two generations have never experienced this page in entertainment history. With this thought in mind, our Land O'Lakes chapter decided it was about time to try to remedy this situation in some small way.

On September 21st, the days before the talking picture were re-visited. The place was Norm Tubbesing's Arcade

Theatre in St. Paul, a theatre like many that had played their parts in the drama of the original "Golden Age of Theatre". Way back then many a heart must have skipped a beat when the majestic pipe organ began its accompaniment to slapstick Keystone Kops comedy or perhaps the Perils of Pauline. But unfortunately, in more recent years, one by one the pipe organs have been dismantled and no longer make their voices heard to audiences both young and old. The very chambers have lost their identities through remodeling and change. An era had ended! At least until that enjoyable Sunday afternoon when the lights dimmed, the audience hushed and Elaine Franklin, dramatically spotlighted in red, began her pre-show organ concert. The Rogers 33 E organ, their largest production model, (provided by the Bodine Company), was not only a respectable stand-in for the original pipe organ sound but rather it gave us an exact taste of by-gone days.

When the audience was in the proper mood for the next experience, Don Taft took his place at the console and slides were shown, all original and still at their colorful best both literally and figuratively. We read, among many others, "WOULD LADIES PLEASE REMOVE THEIR HATS" both right-side-up and upside down (planned that way accidentally on purpose by Chairman Don Peterson so he could throw in an occasional "ONE MOMENT PLEASE".) Of course an afternoon at the moving pictures was never complete without sing-along slides, so we all welcomed the chance to join Don Taft in a few choruses of "Harvest Moon", "The Band Played On" and many more vintage tunes. Next came an Our Gang-type comedy short entitled, "Pie In Your Eye", the story line of which was self-explanatory and, needless to say, hilarious. Then the main feature title lit up the screen, "Follies of Youth". For "Drama" and "Pathos" (but mostly for a good deal of unintentional comedy), it was perfect. Of course, Don's deft accompaniment added just the right touch. R. J. O'Neil is to be thanked for the old movie prints, Dick Carter for the projector on which the slides were shown, Bob Lahti and Harold Peterson for the slides and Warren Mytling for the 16mm movie projector.

When there wasn't a dry eye in the house, admittedly from laughter instead of from the originally-intended tears, the melodrama came to an end and we were treated to a finale of fine organ music from Elaine Franklin.

All in all, we felt that a good time

had been had by everyone. Perhaps the idea will catch on here in Land O'Lakes territory: The idea that history *should* sometimes repeat itself, especially such an entertaining, colorful history!

— Alice Tubbesing, Secretary

LOS ANGELES

The fall season of club activities continued with a fine concert by the young Australian organist, Tony Fenelon, at the Wiltern on Oct. 12. That afternoon's jam session, usually held on the Elks Building 4/58 Morton, was transferred to the Pipe n' Pizza restaurant 2/10 Wurlitzer. A number of members took advantage of the opportunity to play still another theatre pipe organ. On October 31 many club members traveled 100 miles south to hear fellow member, Gaylord Carter, play a Halloween midnight movie show on the San Diego Fox theatre 4/31 Morton. Since much of the advertising was on a local rock n' roll music radio station, the audience consisted principally of almost 2,000 teenagers who had probably never seen a silent movie, nor heard a theatre pipe organ. Both The Phantom of the Opera (Lon Chaney) and the Phantom of the organ (Gaylord) seemed to hold the kids' attention. Club members are looking forward to the annual meeting, election of officers, and special concert on Dec. 7 at Dorothy Bleick's studio with the 2/12 Wurlimorton in Covina. And to Helen Dell's concert at the Wiltern on Dec. 14. That afternoon the club is joining the Los Angeles Organists' Breakfast Club in a "Toys for Tots" Christmas benefit concert on the 2/10 Wurlitzer at the Pipe n' Pizza restaurant.

On Nov. 9, the chapter presented a concert by Lyn Larsen which introduced a new pipe organ locale to members, the 250-seat "Old Town Theatre" in nearby El Segundo which now houses the Coffman and Field 4/21 Wurlitzer (formerly installed in the Woodcarver shop). It was a first, the initial concert played on the fine instrument.

— Ray Bonner, Chairman

MOTOR CITY

There is an old vaudeville routine that begins, "Just mention my name in — — —, the greatest little town in the world." And the name of Gaylord Carter mentioned in radio spots, newspapers, and the trailer played in the theatre featuring "The Big Chase" music on the organ, together with the two Harold Lloyd comedies, "Sailor Made Man" and "Never Weaken" brought our largest audience to date. A packed house. We added a couple hundred admirers to our mailing list.

One man called the morning after the show to be added to the list. Said he had missed the show but his friends were so enthusiastic, he didn't want to miss another. Many young people expressed the desire for more when Gaylord played several current ballads as a finale after his accompaniment to the films and his usual antics at the organ.

There is a waiting audience for live theatre organ in our town, and in yours. All you have to do is to give *everyone* the opportunity to know that an event is taking place. Display ads cost money, but we found that we were eligible for a non-profit group display advertising rate in a major daily (1/3 off) and consequently had statewide circulation for the first time.

Chapter members are again playing the Friday night organ intermissions at both the Punch and Judy, and the Redford Theaters. Work is progressing on the Royal Oak 3/10 Barton and a grand re-opening concert is planned when it is completed.

NIAGARA FRONTIER

A standing-room-only crowd welcomed Lyn Larsen to the Riviera Theatre October 22. His performance thrilled the Frontiersmen for the second consecutive year. "From This Moment On" played for the big sound got things off to a good start. Movie themes followed by a melodic arrangement with chrysoglott and chimes for "My Way". Then a well applauded march for a change of pace. Lyn's pedal work is always interesting to observe. It is not fair to the artist to list his numbers but each one had a different registration which displays the masterful ability of this young artist.

He accompanied a silent movie and sing-a-long closing by playing requests from the balcony to let folks way up there know he hadn't forgotten them. His fine concert was rewarded by a sincere standing ovation.

On Oct. 25th the Chapter celebrated its tenth anniversary with a midnight party at the Riviera. A silent movie and sing-a-long were followed by Sandy Ellis and Shirley Cole with a 1920's act with costumes. They were accompanied by Ray Simon at the console.

Bill Hatzenbuhler played his version of "The Chariot Race" with full organ, all percussions and the toy counter all at full blast. Everything worked.

Alan Ross gave a mini-concert followed by open console.

Chairman Randy Piazza was awarded the gavel of office, and the theatre manager Frank Guzzetta was presented with his honorary member tab.

— Shirley Cole

OHIO VALLEY

October 19th marked Gaylord Carter's fourth appearance at the RKO Albee Theatre, Cincinnati, doing a program under sponsorship of the chapter. As usual, Gaylord drew a good crowd, with over 1900 cheering fans in attendance. A Rodgers theatre model organ was used for the evening, which Gaylord put through its paces. His program included a complete cueing for Lon Chaney's "Hunchback of Notre Dame".

Those who have attended this series of shows featuring live organ music and silent movies put on by the Ohio Valley Chapter of ATOE have been told on several occasions that the purpose of these shows is to obtain money for the restoration of the RKO Albee 3 manual 19 rank Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ.

Since our last show last October this organ has been removed from the RKO Albee and is in the process of being reinstalled in Emery Auditorium at Central Parkway and Walnut Street. This removal and restoration is a chapter project and support of these shows so the work can be completed is most appreciated. It is hoped restoration and reinstallation can be completed by next spring.

Emery Auditorium, seating 1510 persons, is part of the Ohio College of Applied Science complex. Built in 1908, Emery was "home" for the Cincinnati Symphony through the 1920's. Countless are the artists who have appeared on Emery's stage, including John Philip Sousa. Children's Theatre has been held at Emery so grade children have had their chance to see "live" theatre. The auditorium has just been air-conditioned, thereby promising new comfort for performances there.

— Robert Ridgeway

OREGON

Chapter activities were varied and interesting for summer and fall. In August we met at the home of Richard and Mary Pitts. The huge picture windows overlooked the picturesque Yaquina Bay at Newport. Dick had restored the former Oaks Rink organ originally built by Wm. Woods Pipe Organ Co. He completely refinished it to what is now one of the best home organs in the Northwest. The artist, Patricia Preisz, played a memorable program demonstrating the superb sound of the organ.

The October meeting was held in the Scottish Rite Masonic Lodge Auditorium in Portland. This is a 3/11 Wurlitzer. Its versatility was demonstrated by a duo of Walter Meisen and

Jonas Nordwall. First Walter played, then he sang accompanied by Jonas. Then Jonas changed to the grand piano while Walter played the organ. Finally Walter both played and sang many numbers such as "Somewhere My Love," "Spanish Eyes" and other ballads. Truly a great day.

I hate to report that the Portland Oriental must be torn down. The wrecker is scheduled to remove it. I hope the cars that park there are haunted by the strains of music. Dennis Hedberg and Bill Peterson will remove the organ for reinstallation in some, as yet, unknown place.

With so many movie palaces meeting this fate, I wonder if the next generation will know the spine tingling thrill as the opening number ushers the mighty organ from the pit to throb its vibrating sounds. Let us savor them while we may.

— G. Duffy

PUGET SOUND

Final business meeting of the year was held at Brads Restaurant preceding the concert and jam session at the Masonic Lodge. The organ is a 2/8 Wurlitzer from a Bremerton Theatre. The concert itself was played by Mahon Tullis, a real old type theatre organist. Possibly the youngest one of them left. He played theatre organ while in junior high, went on to radio work, worked for Balcom and Vaughn and taught organ there. Currently an abstract clerk in King County Dept. of assessments, he still plays casual musical engagements and concerts.

The Tony Fenelon concert really demands a longer review but it's great to hear our own organ in the Haller Lake clubhouse. The roughly 350 people from both clubs attending not only enjoyed themselves very much, they became Tony Fenelon fans with much demand for his return.

The movie, Laurel and Hardy's "Double Whoopee," was provided by Don Myers who also shared the musical accompaniment with Eddie Zollmar.

SIERRA

A small, but very appreciative crowd of thirty-five members and fourteen guests assembled at the Carl Greer Inn Sunday, September 14th to hear Emil Martin at the console of the Robert Morton. Mr. Martin, an artist from the days of silent movies, opened the first half of his program with numbers from the golden days of theatre organ. A medley of these got the program off to a rousing start, and the first half was played with but two interruptions.

During the intermission, Emil requested that the audience write down

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THEATRE PIPE ORGAN RECORDS — All Lyn Larsen records available exclusively through Essential Records. Order or write for information: P. O. Box 3304, Glendale, Calif. 91201.

FOR SALE — Custom built RODGERS Organ. \$18,000 value. Must sacrifice due to illness. \$7,000 or best offer. Mrs. HARVEY TAYLOR, 305 South Eunice, Port Angeles, Wash. 98362. Phone: 457-3844.

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WANTED — Bench and music rack for Wurlitzer console. ED RANEY, 6211 Temple Hill Drive, Los Angeles, Calif. 90028. Tel.: HO 9-9181.

their favorites and the second half of the program was made up of these requests and included a medley from "The King and I", the "Desert Song", "Paint Your Wagon" and several more numbers from the good old days. As an encore, Emil was asked to play his old radio theme "Ruby", which brought back memories to many Sacramentoans.

Emil Martin has been broadcasting since the advent of radio. He first played a 2/14 Robert Morton installed in the studios of KCRA which is now the property of member Don Zeller. When the organ was removed from the studio he started playing a Hammond and is still broadcasting a half-hour program each Sunday evening. Emil is a very accomplished organist who can play both pops and classical with equal ease. Emil Martin should be heard by more A.T.O.S. members, for he is truly one of the finest organists playing today.

— Bob Longfield

WOLVERINE

After 30 years of being parted, two old friends got together for two hours

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on Sunday morning, September 28, much to the enjoyment of 300 people. Larry Leverenz, who played theatre organs for 10 years throughout Michigan for Butterfield Theatres, returned to his friend, the Golden Voiced Barton at the Temple Theatre, Saginaw.

The Temple Theatre is one of the cleanest and best taken care of theatres in Michigan. It still displays its beautiful rococo and gold leaf. The Temple also boasts of the Barton, which is in excellent condition due to the restoration project of Ken Wuepper and several assistants. All of this is a credit to Mr. Ellis Merkley, manager, who has been with Butterfield Theatres for 27 years. Wish there were more like him around.

A real showman, Mr. Leverenz played several medleys of tunes too numerous to mention all of them. Then he simulated an orchestra tuning up its various instruments, via an organ chamber tour, and played the "orchestra" through "Pomp and Circumstance."

The second half was devoted to a world tour with songs to denote the

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cities and countries, a medley of well-known show-tunes, and a night at the opera. When the audience is really enjoying themselves, the time goes by so fast, and too soon the two great friends must part again. A very appropriate closing number was "Auld Lang Syne."

A short meeting of the Wolverine Chapter was held at the theatre, then the membership gathered at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for an "indoor picnic." Several members tried out the Schlicker pipe organ there. Some were amazed at the volume of sound to be gotten from 16 ranks of unenclosed pipework voiced on 2½" wind pressure. Incidentally, 8 ranks of it are mixtures.

Many members were heard to have remarked what a fine concert it was and what a nice turn-out there was.

1970 ATOS CONVENTION

NEW YORK CITY