

Chicago ATOE To Host 1969 Convention

Showtime in Chicago is the theme for the 1969 ATOE National Convention to be held July 4 thru 7. Convention headquarters will be the new Chicago Marriott Motor Hotel.

Departing from the concert approach of previous ATOE conventions, CATOE members are assembling a brilliant program of authentic theatre pipe organ shows on organs restored by CATOE. Included are the Pickwick, Mont Clare, Indiana, and Patio Theatres.

Special outside theatre events will include: *ATOE Salute to the Aragon Ballroom*—a gigantic get-acquainted dance and cocktail party featuring Hal Pearl at the Aragon Wurlitzer and a dance orchestra; the giant Chicago Stadium Barton in a gala performance by Al Melgard; and a concert performance by John Seng at the huge Wurlitzer located at the St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein.

Featured performing artists appearing at the 1969 convention will be the midwest's own spectacular stars: Al Melgard, John Muri, Buddy Nolan and Dian Pfeffenberger, Hal Pearl, John Seng, Pearl White, and many more!!!

Seminars and workshops will be a feature of this years convention. Dan Barton, *Master of the Bartons* will conduct a workshop on the Barton Organ. Ben Hall, nationally known theatre buff and author of *The Best Remaining Seats* will present his *All New Slide Show* featuring theatres and organs from around the country. A third workshop entitled *Producing Shows* will be presented by CATOE members, describing in detail the many factors which have contributed to CATOE's success in presenting theatre organ shows.

Chartered buses will operate from the Marriott Hotel for all events. The registration fee covers all bus transportation, admission to all events, and the 1969 Program Booklet.

The annual banquet will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Marriott Hotel as will all seminars, workshops and convention registration.

Bill Benedict, CATOE chairman, along with Sam Holte, program chairman for the convention and Roland Frase, convention coordinator are busy working out the final details of the 1969 ATOE Convention with the help of CATOE members. A complete list of events and organists will appear in the April issue of *Theatre Organ Bombarde*.

This year's Convention Headquarters will be the 500-room, multi-million dollar Chicago Marriott Motor Hotel, near Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

One of the largest motor hotels in the world, the lavish Chicago Marriott Motor Hotel has a unique "bubble dome" indoor-outdoor pool with year-round swimming in a bi-level tropical garden setting.

Each guest room is equipped with color television and is decorated in lively warm colors with comfortable contemporary furniture to create a friendly, homelike environment.

Marriott, one of the largest restaurant operators in the world, features more quality dining facilities in its Chicago hotel than any other of its size in the area. There will be four restaurants here including the Stirrup Cup Steak Room, which features char-broiled steaks, the Fairfield Inn Restaurant, which is open 24 hours a day, the Windjammer Lounge, and an old-fashion Fire House Tavern.

The annual banquet will be held in the 9,200 square foot Grand Ballroom which accommodates 1,150 people for dining.

The Chicago Marriott is located 2 miles east of O'Hare International Airport off the Kennedy Expressway which is Interstate Route No. 94 and Illinois Highway No. 194. Regularly scheduled courtesy limousine service will be available to and from the airport.

LA Chapter's "San Gabriel" Organ Arrives 3-15 Wurlitzer Westward Ho!

"Project San Gabriel", the name applied to the Los Angeles Chapter's Wurlitzer relocation program, took a giant stride forward during December with the arrival of the 3-15 (style 260 special) Wurlitzer organ in San Gabriel after a cross-country trip from Brooklyn, New York. The organ was removed from the RKO Albee theatre in Brooklyn by a crew supervised by chapter members Neal Kissel and Ross Farmer who braved the chilly eastern weather to make certain the instrument would not suffer the transportation beating inflicted on the NY Paramount Wurlitzer when it was shipped West a few years ago. Careful packing paid off; no serious damage was experienced.

During the several days required to demount and pack the Wurli, many photos were shot. A selection of these will be presented in these pages as soon as a successful format can be devised to obtain reproducible black and white photos from Ross Farmer's color negatives.

The instrument is now spread across the backstage area and in several rooms of the Civic Auditorium while Kissel and Farmer assemble a work crew to releather the entire organ and make all necessary repairs before starting the installation.

The project, through which the donation of the Wurlitzer to the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium was arranged, was masterminded by LA Chapter officers, with special thanks to Neal Kissel, Ruth Skovmand, Ray Bonner and Keith Woodard for their successful efforts in scouting available organs and performing a feat of persuasion in interesting San Gabriel city officials.