



BEE HIVE

The first meeting in 1969 of the Bee Hive Chapter was held Friday, January 24 at the Organ Loft. The new officers officiated; they are, Chapter Chairman, Wayne V. Russell; Vice Chairman, Michael Ohman; and Secretary-Treasurer, Lilly Colibert.

Members discussed plans for the coming year. Jack Reynolds and Harry Weirauch have been restoring the pipe organ at the Salt Lake Elk's Club. Jack Reynolds has a beautiful home installation. Member John Dobson has restored the organ at the Capitol Theatre, it sounds wonderful. JoAnn and Norris Harmon informed the group that their pipe organ, home installation, soon would be ready for its audition.

Following the meeting, Mike Ohman, young talented student from B.Y.U., presented a dinner concert on the Larry Bray Wurlitzer. Mike's concerts are always a treat because Mike himself is so full of delightful enthusiasm. His personality is transmitted through his music. The program consisted of old and new favorites.

Mike introduced one of his students, Wayne Tucker, from Pleasant Grove, Utah. Wayne is only 15 years old, but he played two numbers on the Giant Wurlitzer as if he were an "old pro." I'm sure we will hear more about Wayne in years to come.

February 16, Salt Lake patrons and ATOE members were delighted by a concert on the Bray installation by Harvey Blanchard. Harvey, ATOE member from the Bay area, also played for the Saturday night dancing party February 15.

Harvey spoke not a word but went straight to the console and played up a storm. His program consisted mostly of "oldies" which delighted the audience. His rendition of "Making Whoopee" and "Tea for Two" were especially popular. Mr. Blanchard has a remarkable store-house of musical numbers and transmits a great feeling of ease and excitement to his audience.

— Maxine V. Russell

CONNECTICUT VALLEY

The Connecticut Valley Chapter held its annual Christmas Banquet on December 14, 1968 at Le Cordon Bleu restaurant in Waterbury. This meeting is always an excellent chance to socialize, and this year was no exception. Miss Helen Stoddard and her committee, who handled the arrangements again, are to be commended.

After dinner, we installed our newly elected officers, Chairman, Stillman H. Rice; Vice Chairman, Frank Manion; Secretary, Ruth Smith; Treasurer, Don MacCormack; and Program Chairman, Mike Foley. Al Miller, who spearheaded the founding of the chapter, presented a plaque he had made to Chairman Rice. This plaque gives the date of Chapter Chairmanships, and will be kept in the Chairman's possession until we have a permanent home for it. Program Chairman Mike Foley presented his ideas for the 1969 meetings, and the response was most enthusiastic.

While Bert Clough provided appropriate music on a Wurlitzer plug-in, our own Santa Claus (Harry Charette) passed out goodies from the grab-bag.

Although it was nearly midnight, and the weather had turned to snow, the hardier souls turned to the Waterbury State Theatre, where Ev Bassett was warming up the 2-10 Wurlitzer. Ev played a short concert of old favorites, including "The Touch of Your Hand," a medley of "And Then My Heart Stood Still" and "I Told Every Little

Star," followed by "The Song Is in My Heart."

Ev explained that only one "Hit of the Week" record . . . remember those 15c paper discs? . . . was an organ record. This was Jesse Crawford's "When the Organ Played at Twilight," which Ev played next. Then just to make sure we hadn't fallen asleep, or perhaps to wake us all up, he played a rousing "Dixie" with some of the drums and utensils from the "hardware" department thrown in for "kicks." Everett's closing was a number which has a very catchy rhythm, "One, Two Button My Shoe."

Before we finally closed the theatre and threw out the cats (into the piles of snow), selections were heard from Herb Blair, Russell Hubbard, Bert Clough, and Al Miller.



Plaque naming Chapter Chairmen which was presented to chapter by Al Miller at Dec. 1968 meeting. Note the authentic nameplates included on the plaque.

The Connecticut Valley Chapter gave up its traditional birthday celebration and joined with the New York Chapter in its 14th Anniversary Organ Festival. The Conn Val Chaps heralded their founding on February 8, 1961 (ATOE was six years old), arriving in two chartered buses just in time for the concert on the Radio City Music Hall Giant 4-56 Grand Wurlitzer. Twelve members, who could afford the time and money, took in the whole weekend, which was richly rewarding in musical enjoyment and experience.

This biennial event, which also celebrates the birth date of Robert Hope-Jones, could be named the Robert Hope-Jones Biennial Blizzard. Members of the chapter who joined us this trip will long remember the trip home. The storm, which left many of us stranded in the big city wondering if

ATOE CHAPTER CHAIRMEN AND SECRETARIES (Cont'd)

ST. LOUIS (15)

Chairman

Donald P. Ullrich
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St. Louis, Mo. 63137

Secretary

Edgar J. Kline
12090 Fleetwood Pl.
Bridgeton, Mo. 63042

SOUTHEASTERN (14)

Chairman

Charles Walker
312 Fayetteville Rd.
Fairburn, Ga. 30213

Secretary

May E. Jones
RFD #2, Box 3-T
Duluth, Ga. 30136

WESTERN RESERVE (16)

Chairman

Robert Davis
Route 4, Grandview Blvd.
Willoughby, Ohio 44094

Secretary

Virgil Bartz
P.O. Box 273
Gates Mills, Ohio 44040

WOLVERINE (22)

Chairman

Mal McGill
525 Somerset
Saginaw, Mich. 48603

Secretary

Christine McGill
525 Somerset
Saginaw, Mich. 48603

we'd ever get out of our hotel rooms, was not so kind to almost 100 members who were stranded in the two buses on the Hutchison River Parkway for over 26 hours, and who spent almost 36 hours getting home . . . a trip which usually takes two hours.

Fortunately, the good spirit of the group helped the time pass, as did the assistance of an excellent bus driver, the helpfulness of two policemen (who were also stranded), and a Howard Johnson's Restaurant which ran out of food, but kept the coffee flowing as long as possible. Member Ray Carignan suffered a stroke, and was rushed to Queens Hospital by helicopter. Ray recovered and is doing fine, thanks to the alert policemen and a doctor who was also stranded.

This writer did not make it home until Wednesday, and many ATOEs from other visiting chapters must have had similar experiences.

While the Festival was most enjoyable, the Connecticut Valley Chapter will think a long time before scheduling another bus trip . . . perhaps even in July.

— Al Miller

LOS ANGELES

The new officers for 1969 are: Ray Bonner, chairman; Bill Exner, vice-chairman; Keith Woodward, treasurer; Lois Taylor, secretary; Andy Rimmer, program director; and Dick Simonton, liaison chairman. After seven years as Wiltern organ maintenance chairman, Bob Alder has resigned due to lack of time. The chapter board has appointed Ross Farmer to the position. Dick Stoney continues as Elks organ maintenance chairman. A large number of members have joined the Elks Organ playing plan and are having the time of their lives tackling the 4-61 monster Morton. The plan coordinators are Bob and Ruth Stratton.

Refurbishing and installation of the 3-16 Wurlitzer in the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium is progressing under the direction of project coordinator Neal Kissel.

The 1969 season of chapter activities began with a splash, actually and musically. A surprisingly large crowd turned out during a heavy rainstorm on January 25 to hear well-known San Francisco area Theatre organist Tom Hazleton play a program on the Wiltern Theatre 4-37 Kimball. Those who had heard Tom before expected a top rank performance; they were not disappointed. The jam session that afternoon on the Elks Building 4-61 Morton brought out one of the largest jam session crowds we have ever experienced. Perhaps LA ATOE members like the wet weather. On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 9,

approximately 350 members and families turned out for an ATOE anniversary and Robert Hope-Jones birthday celebration at Tubes, Inc. The history of the ATOE and the Hope-Jones contributions to the theatre pipe organ were recounted by Judd Walton. Brief programs were presented on the 2-10 Wurlitzer by Lyn Larsen and Dean McNichols. Gaylord Carter presented a singalong, some concert numbers, and played accompaniment for a recently produced silent color movie featuring the late Buster Keaton. It is ironic that during the evening before this special ATOE event, and unknown to chapter officials, the National ATOE Board meeting in New York had suspended the LA chapter and had forbidden it to use the term "ATOE." Official notification of this action, based on alleged violations of the uniform chapter charter agreement and National By-laws was received on Feb. 15. The matter will not be aired in this column. It is sufficient to say that at a subsequent general membership meeting on Feb. 28 the chapter members voted to modify the club's arrangements with The Console magazine. These re-arrangements were subsequently found acceptable by The National ATOE Board, and the suspension was lifted. The LA ATOE members also indicated by vote that they do not consider themselves guilty of the alleged violations. Now, the club is moving forward to new activities and fun. The San Gabriel Civic Auditorium Wurlitzer project is proceeding in fine style. The old Aeolian organ has been sold and removed. Organist George Wright has become tonal consultant on the project. On Feb. 15 many LA ATOE members participated with the local American Guild of Organists in an organ tour featuring 4 different organs and organists. Members are looking forward to a Wiltern concert on March 30, featuring Lloyd del Castillo. Other concerts are planned for April and May. Also in April, members will trek to "Monk's Musical Pizza Parlor" in Covina for a special party featuring the 2-7 Wurlitzer, with lots of Pizza and beer.

— Ray Bonner

MOTOR CITY

Take an active ATOE chapter and call it MOTOR CITY . . . from many suggestions for an evening's entertainment, choose ONE. Select an energetic committee with lots of enthusiasm and innumerable talents. Mix slowly, organizing thoroughly and when the curtain is raised at the Redford Theatre for the evening show, you have the unforgettable combination of the silent movie IRENE starring Colleen Moore, the master of the keyboard, Lee Erwin at the console of the Golden Voiced

Barton theatre pipe organ and the one and only Ben Hall, Master of Ceremonies. Colleen Moore, a spirited and young-looking woman who sparked the flapper rage of the twenties, made a personal appearance. Today she presents a warm, friendly personality, very chic and still a person whom all, young and old, can adore and hope to emulate.

Tuesday, March 4th was the culmination of the Motor City Chapter's hard work in presenting a fun-evening for all its patrons. Almost every seat was filled in the Redford Theatre with many arriving early so they could have the best seating. Many stood outside to welcome the famous guests as they arrived. The program opened with Jim Brown, chairman, introducing Lee Erwin who brought the 3-10 Barton from the pit with familiar melodies. Ben Hall was presented as the MC for the evening and together with Lee gave a delightful 'organ talk' depicting how a theatre organist might play appropriate accompaniment, using the many special effects on the organ to fit the many moods of any picture. Then Ben and the audience gave a warm welcome to the star of the evening, Miss Colleen Moore. Miss Moore appeared twice during the evening and told stories of Hollywood and her life in that city during the twenties. Although she was doing double-duty this particular evening (Doubleday had her two books on display and she autographed during intermission and at the end of the program), Miss Moore seemed to be enjoying herself as much as we were listening to her stories. It was difficult to believe that Miss Moore had just returned from a trip around the world and was already finalizing plans for a similar trip with one of her five grandchildren.



Lee Erwin, Colleen Moore, Ben Hall

At all times Miss Moore was completely poised — even when she became 'all wrapped up in her work' as the stage curtain was accidentally closed, opened and closed again at the precise moment she was accepting her flowers from Jeanne Brown, daughter of the chapter chairman. Without missing a beat, Ben Hall rushed from the wings

to lift the curtain enough to allow Miss Moore's triumphant reappearance still bearing her bouquet of roses.

This was a fun evening for all who attended and an evening that will long be remembered by all — audience and participants. Here is a recipe that can be used again and again, remembering the important blending of all ingredients — the chapter, the Theatre and its management, Ben Hall, Lee Erwin and the Barton theatre pipe organ and last but not least, the one and only Colleen Moore.

—*Marion Bunt*

NEW YORK

Sunday morning, January 18, 1969 was the inauguration of a new and unusual series of meetings New York Chapter has initiated at the Rahway Theatre, Rahway, N. J., home of the chapter's "Biggest Little Wurlitzer" (style E-X). This was a workshop session, an idea conceived a year earlier, and now a reality.

The first session drew over 50 chapter members divided into two groups. Forty gathered around the console with Lee Erwin and were taught various ways to arrange and register and play music on the theatre organ, properly. These sessions were not meant to be music lessons, but a helpful addition to all who desire to improve their musical abilities. The sounds at our future jam sessions should be greatly enhanced as a result of this series.

The second group of a dozen rallied in the theatre lobby with Bon Smith, where the inner workings of a pipe organ were revealed and discussed. Various pipes, magnets, reeds, etc., were displayed as well as many drawings on a blackboard. While the players took a midmorning coffee break, the fixers toured both organ chambers and observed all the works in actual operation.

Those in attendance at this first session were most enthusiastic and a series of similar sessions are now planned. However, the players and fixers sessions will now be held at different times as our only complaint was, many wished to attend both sessions.

—*Robert D. Balfour*

NIAGARA FRONTIER

Internationally-known, British-born organist, Jeff Barker, performed a pipe organ concert for a large, enthused audience at the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda, N. Y. on January 22.

His repertoire for the evening consisted mainly of musical show tunes starting with the late '20's and progressing to the hit show tunes of today.

Jeff's selections from "The Love

Parade" of 1930 were played in a Jesse Crawford style. Songs from "The Gold-diggers of 1929" were jazzed up and sound great.

After intermission, he proceeded with several songs recently on the Top 20, in addition to three pieces from "The Graduate."

A 1916 silent movie starring Gloria Swanson, "Teddy at the Throttle," was followed by Mr. Barker's playing of "The Golden Wedding."

Young, handsome Jeff acknowledged a standing ovation with an encore that beautifully ended this talented showing of his love of music. Enough can't be said about him or his performance. Jeff has to be seen and heard live to be appreciated.

On Wednesday evening, February 12, young Dick Smith presented a pipe organ concert on the Riviera Theatre console to a near full-house crowd.

Highlights of this evening's entertainment were Dick's playing of "Zorba the Greek" and "Granada," which could very well give him the title "Mr. Action." His playing of these numbers on a full organ with incredible speed roused the audience. A beautiful "Autumn in New York" was dedicated to Mr. Smith's dear friend, the late Buddy Cole.

Following intermission, Dick accompanied sing-along slides and an old silent picture, "The Tennessee Hills," then brought down the console with "Goodnight Sweetheart."

There was a reception in a local restaurant, and then Dick Smith and about 25 of his faithful followers returned to the Riviera for a couple more hours of enjoyable fun at the console.

We members of the Niagara Frontier Chapter ATOE certainly are anticipating a quick return by skillful Dick Smith.

"Pipe Organ Memories" is a very popular and worthwhile half-hour program on Radio WBEN-FM, 102.5 each week night from 6:30 to 7 o'clock.

Each evening, a different artist is presented playing many different types of songs. The music is beautiful, interesting, and also relaxing for a dinner hour atmosphere. Be sure to listen if you can get this Buffalo, New York station on your radio.

—*Shirley Cole*

OREGON

Sunday, February 16, the Oregon Chapter met for a concert at Oregon State University's Gill Coliseum (90 miles south of Portland) on the former Corvallis (Oreg.) Whiteside Theatre 2-8 Wurlitzer.

THE ORGAN: The Wurlitzer was installed in the Whiteside Theatre in

the twenties and in later years fell into a state of disrepair. Charter member Dick Chase worked it over, put it in playing condition and had access to its use. Later, Mrs. Whiteside gave it to Oregon State University to be installed in the new 10,000-seat Gill Coliseum—basketball and athletic building. Dick Chase not only supervised the move but did most of the reinstallation. His first job was to find a place to install the organ. Dick said that they took organ recordings and played them through a high output movable speaker system, transferring the speakers from place to place in the building. The best location seemed to be the west end of the stadium, elevated about 20 feet above the seats. It should be noted that in the theater the organ was installed in the rear of the stage area in two large swell boxes, so by building platforms out from the wall between the roof girders the organ was reinstalled in the original chamber boxes as it was in the theatre. The two chambers were separated by about 20 feet. The console was set on a cantilever platform at seat level between the chambers. The renovated organ was recently equipped with great octave and suboctave couplers. Since the organ speaks directly under the curved roof, the sound rolls through the large structure making the 8-rank organ sound very large.

THE ORGANISER: Roland Hall, a local high school teacher by profession, but a musician and organist by avocation, played a concert of three groups of songs. Most were relative to the twenties and early thirties, so they were familiar to the members. He utilized the possible combinations of the small organ to the fullest with excellent shading and variation. Having played the organ in the theater before it was moved, and later at the Coliseum for special events, he was very familiar with the instrument.

After the concert Dick Chase hosted a jam session on his 3-14 mostly-Wurlitzer. The informality of the gathering and the excellent sounding instrument provided a background for a talk fest.

—*Bob Burke*

SIERRA

Thirty-four members and eleven guests were present when Chairman John Sogorka called the meeting of Sierra Chapter to order, Sunday afternoon, February 9, at Carl Greer Inn.

A special Board Meeting had been held a week previous, to work out ideas and procedures for obtaining and installing an organ for the chapter, and John gave a short report to the assembled members. Bob Longfield followed with a report on our new Tape Library. The chapter recently pur-

— CLASSIFIED ADS —

chased a dozen rolls of sound tape and asked members to record organ music or other material of interest to enthusiasts. Members may borrow the recorded tapes for a period of one month.

George Seaver opened the musical portion of the program. Seated at the Robert Morton, George played a specially prepared program sparked with humorous introductions to the various members. His program included both pops and classical numbers, and our "staff" organist never sounded better. Sierra Chapter owes much to George who not only plays for our meetings and silent movies, but also frequently plays for civic and private groups to help create an interest in theatre organ and our chapter. Following George's concert there was a jam session which was suddenly interrupted when a familiar figure strolled into the dining room—none other than Mr. Pipe Organ himself, Eddie Dunstedter.

A round of applause brought Eddie to the console to play several of his famous numbers, though he admitted he was tired, having been up half the previous night preparing for his recording session. There was certainly nothing about his playing to indicate he was tired. It was the same Dunstedter artistry that organ enthusiasts have enjoyed for many, many years. He stayed to meet new members and pose for the shutter bugs. It was a busy weekend for Eddie and his charming wife, Vee. Not only did he play for the Greer "cash" customers Sunday and Monday evenings, he spent most of the wee small hours of Monday morning recording the Robert Morton and everyone is eagerly awaiting the results which will probably be available in late March or April. — *Bob Longfield*

SOUTH FLORIDA

December 8, 1968 was the meeting date for the new season in South Florida. Cal Jureit had recently added three more ranks to his home installation plus an electronic pedal and was quite eager to present the ensemble to members and friends of ATOE. The new sound is most enhancing, to say the least, certainly justifying the endless hours required to accomplish this task.

Over fifty were on hand as Chairman John Steele presented our new resident and member of South Florida, Mr. Reginald Foort. It is with great warmth and admiration that we welcome this world renowned organist and his wife into our midst. Chairman Steele also presided over a brief formal meeting during which time a board of directors was nominated and the 1968 officers were reinstated for 1969.

ORGAN and REPRODUCER PIANO Enthusiasts tapes exchanged and Club News. ARNIE THORSON, 1519½ Como Avenue S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414.

FOR SALE—2/10 Smith console and relay complete with wiring, \$600. DALE MENDENHALL, 4428 Pennsylvania Ave., Fair Oaks, Calif. 95628. Phone 916-967-5060.

WANTED—Bench and music rack for Wurlitzer 185 console. ED RANEY, 6211 Temple Hill Drive, Los Angeles, Calif. 90028. Tel: HO 9-9181.

FOR SALE—Several electric Player Pianos, ideal for connecting to pipe organs. Write for free brochure and photographs. ELLSWORTH JOHNSON, W. 611 First, Spokane, Wash. 99204. Phone 509-747-5432.

FOR SALE—Double roll-player "Fotopiano." Write: Dewey Cagle, 3291 Guido St., Oakland, Calif. 94602.

FOR SALE—WURLITZER THEATRE PIPE ORGAN ALBUM—Century Long Play "Souvenir of Niagara Falls" as advertised in October Theatre Organ Bombarde. Original musical description of Falls, plus 6 popular standard favorites. Jacket is full-color aerial view of Niagara, suitable for framing. Mono or Stereo, \$5.25 postpaid. Composer, organist, recitalist CARLTON FINCH, 266 Sweeney, North Tonawanda, New York 14120. ATOE member. Limited number of records still available.

FOR SALE—Kinetic blower, 1½ HP, 850 cu. ft./min. at 5 inches, split phase. Used only three months. \$75.00. DR. HAROLD W. WOOD, 195 W. Cleveland Park Drive, Spartanburg, South Carolina 29303.

During the evening several members found their way to the console at various intervals to provide that which everyone desires most, live organ! Betty Lee Taylor, not to be outdone, played and also sat on the bench reminiscing over some of her more humorous experiences with the theatre organ. Reggie Foort spoke briefly and promised to play at a later date.

Several new members were received at this meeting along with many renewals. It is hoped that all members will renew soon.

— *G. W. Gerhart*

FOR SALE—3 manual 10 rank Barton with post horn and metal diaphone. Pipes mitred for basement height. Serious inquiries only. Detroit area. 1-313-548-4443 or Box 2329, Livonia, Mich. 48150.

FOR SALE—Several sets Moller Strings and Celestes 8" pressure; Kimball Vox; Moller Vox 5". \$50.00 per set not crated. BILL KALTRIDER, 121 S. Washington, Owosso, Michigan 48867.

FOR SALE—Rodgers Theatre Organ, Model 33-E. Two months old. Original cost \$12,900. No reasonable offer will be refused. MR. L. J. LIPSKI, 2857 Hedley St., Philadelphia, Penna. 19137. Phone PI 4-4880 (Area code 215) after 6:00 P.M. weekdays and up to 12:00 Noon weekends.

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FOR SALE BOOKS: Hope Jones Unit Orchestra, \$3.95. Wurlitzer Unit Organs, \$4.50; Wurlitzer Fact Book, \$2.00; Whitworth: Cinema and Theatre Organs, \$15.00; Williams: European Organ, \$20.00; Wurlitzer Church Organs, \$2.00; Audsley ART of Organ Building, \$15.00; Norman: Organ Today, \$7.50; Sears: Reed Organ, \$2.00. Postpaid. The Organ Literature Foundation, 45 Norfolk Road, Braintree, Mass. 02184.



Betty Lee Taylor on bench. Gerhart photo

ENGLAND

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