



The late organist Ray Shelley with Farny Wurlitzer. — (Bill Lamb Photo)



W. "Tiny" James, Grant Whitcomb, Mr. Wurlitzer, and Marvin Korinke at the ATOE Melody Fair in 1964.

The late Ben Hall greets Mr. Wurlitzer.

**WURLITZER
WELCOMES
A.T.O.E.
MEMBERS**



FARNY B. WURLITZER

1883 - 1972

Farny Wurlitzer passed away May 6, 1972.

Mr. Wurlitzer was born on December 7, 1883 and was the youngest son of Rudolph Wurlitzer. At that time the Wurlitzer headquarters were in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1908 the large factory in North Tonawanda, N.Y. was built. This complex was destined to become world famous as the producer of the mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ. Farny Wurlitzer was placed in charge of the North Tonawanda plant. Upon hearing a Robert Hope-Jones organ in Buffalo and learning of the financial difficulties of the Hope-Jones Company, Farny arranged to purchase the assets and thereby brought Jones into the Wurlitzer Company. Young Mr. Wurlitzer's foresight and the unique pipe organ developed by Hope-Jones were combined to give the world the most famous name in all the years of pipe organ history.

Farny Wurlitzer was in charge of the North Tonawanda plant throughout the years of pipe organ construction. His devotion to the king of instruments brought about his keen interest in the affairs of ATOS. He was a Charter Member and our National Board voted him Honorary Member for the year 1960.

In recent years, due to failing health, Mr. Wurlitzer had been under the care of Helen Taravella, who also nursed Grace Wurlitzer, Farny's wife, until her passing several years ago. Helen Taravella served the Farny Wurlitzer family for over 12 years.

Farny usually spent two or three months of each year at La Jolla, California. This year was no exception. In the latter part of April, he was visited by ATOS members Dick Simon-ton and Judd Walton, who discussed the theatre organ with him, as they had on many previous occasions.

Shortly thereafter, Nurse Taravella recognizing Mr. Wurlitzer's rapid decline, arranged for his earlier than usual return to Buffalo, New York. His passing came quietly during the early morning of May sixth. He has left us with the legacy of a sound that will never be surpassed, the mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ. □

JUNE, 1972



FARNY WURLITZER



Mr. Wurlitzer with Reginald Foort (Bill Lamb Photo)

Mr. Wurlitzer with some of the original personnel who worked on the Mighty Wurlitzers.

