

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor concerning all aspects of the theatre organ hobby are encouraged. Send them to the editor concerned. Unless it's stated clearly on the letter "not for publication," the editors feel free to reproduce it, in whole or part.

Address: P.O. Box 2329
Livonia, Michigan 48150

Dear Sir:

Just in case nobody else writes in, I'd like to loudly applaud John Muri for his article on "The Blending of Traditions".

With a title like that, and no photo or drawing to catch my interest, I left that article unread for a few days. When I did read it, I was sure I had never agreed more fully with what John had to say. What the theatre organ needs are more musicians who will take their playing seriously enough to learn the right notes and play them with accuracy and feeling. The number of organists I hear playing "It Goes Something Like This, but Who Cares as Long as it Sounds Like Lara's Theme?" simply because they have taken up organ playing for a fast buck and "... for enjoyment, not 'culture'" makes me wonder if the theatre organ will repeat history and be beaten into oblivion by uninspired organists. We can't blame the "talkies" this time!

Al Miller

Dear Mr. Thompson:

It is with the deepest sense of appreciation that we of the West Penn Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society extend to you and your organization our sincerest thanks for the overwhelming coverage which you allotted us in the April 1972 issue of the THEATRE ORGAN magazine.

We are planning an eventful year and many of the activities will be of interest to ATOS. Our official Volume 1 of our chapter newsletter will be

released in May. We will keep in touch and "keep the presses rolling."

There is one clarification that we would like to make. Your reference to the non-existence of organs in the Pittsburgh area theatre is in error. In the interest of fact, W.P.T.O.S. should like to point out that to the best of knowledge there are two theatre organs housed in Pittsburgh area theatres:

Manos Theatre
Indiana, Penna.
Robert Morton 2/8

South Hills Theatre
Dormont, Penna.
Wurlitzer 2/6

It would be kind of you to insert a memo in the THEATRE ORGAN magazine on the organs mentioned above so that their existence can be brought to the attention of ATOS members who may have no knowledge of the organs.

Sincerely,
Bob Mitchell

Program Director - W.P.T.O.S.

Dear Sir:

For the first time in all readings of THEATRE ORGAN, I really felt a cheer coming from way down. It was after reading John Muri's "The Blending of Traditions", in the February, 1972 edition.

The frank, knowledgeable manner in which Mr. Muri presents his material to the readers is as refreshingly honest as this reader has found in a long time.

As a devotee of the organ, but not technically or historically knowing, it is wonderful to have such memorabilia to read. And as a teacher, it is also very satisfying to have a good critical analysis of the music used in programs.

In some of the local publications there seems to be a tendency lately to fear the realistic view, fearing perhaps, that members may not be able to tolerate an honestly objective view. So the readers are given a saccharine dissertation of an organ or performer. This can be devastating to a rather new follower of organ - although musically informed in other ways. The review does not follow the true being of the program, and this can lead to disbelief in the writer as well as the organization itself.

After having met Mr. Muri, and sampling his frank, and really honest approach to the monarch of the the-

atre he is making his subject, it is grand to have the same approach in the written word.

There seems to be a truly objective approach in Mr. Muri's writing, as in his speaking. With a fearless approach, gained only by one experienced, and yet not afraid of learning more, Mr. Muri is really educating we lesser members of the grand art of ORGAN ... in how to learn.

And again I say ... HURRAH!

Mary Martin
CATOE member

Closing Chord

GEORGE A. SEAVER

Mr. George A. Seaver, Vice Chairman-Treasurer of the Sierra Chapter passed away suddenly on Friday, March 24, 1972. He was working for the Pine Grove Telephone Company as engineer at the time of his death. He was born August 26, 1914 in Massachusetts. He became a professional musician at an early age and was an organist for the Publix Theatres. Besides his wife Charlotte and son Mark in Sutter Creek, California he is survived by a daughter Deborah Sponable of Sacramento, California and a brother John in New York.

This letter written by Sierra Chapter



Mr. George A. Seaver, Vice Chairman-Treasurer, Sierra Chapter, at the 4/16 Robert Morton in the dining room of the Carl Greer Inn, Sacramento, California. - (E.S. Naschke Photo)

Chairman Bob Longfield to the chapter's members tells the main story;

"George Seaver died suddenly of a heart attack, Friday, March 24th at 8:30 P.M. He was 57 years old. At his request, there was no funeral or service. His body was cremated.

"George was a friend, organist, and Vice Chairman-Treasurer, to all of us and was one of the first members of Sierra Chapter when it was organized as T.O.E.S. (Theatre Organ Enthusiasts of Sacramento.) He had held the position of Vice Chairman-Treasurer since T.O.E.S. became Sierra Chapter, ATOS. He was probably the first person that each new member became acquainted with, because he was our organist and because of his warm smile and genuine friendliness.

"To call George an organ enthusiast would be an understatement. He was an organ *fanatic* and would play anything from an electronic spinet to a large theatre pipe organ with equal enthusiasm, and he could cover the range from Bach to rock. George was our only member who played theatre organ well enough for concert or movie and without him our past series of silent movies would have been all but impossible, for he played them all with the excellent showmanship and training he had acquired during the days he played theatre organ for "Publix" in Boston.

"George took all matters as seriously as he did organ playing, and as Vice Chairman-Treasurer he spent long hours working on Taxes, Insurance and Banking Accounts for Sierra Chapter. Strangely enough, just two weeks ago, at our last meeting, George has jokingly written "Let George Do It" on his name tag, and truer words were never written for he not only accepted all club jobs assigned to him but volunteered for more. He was particularly anxious that Sierra Chapter have its own organ, and though he did not live to see that project a reality, perhaps in the not too distant future we *will* have a "George Seaver Memorial Organ."

"His sudden passing came as a great shock to all of us, but especially to those of us who were close personal friends of George and Charlotte (Charlie). It's a worn out phrase, but it does tell the whole story — we'll miss him very much. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Charlie, daughter Debbie Sponable and son Mark.

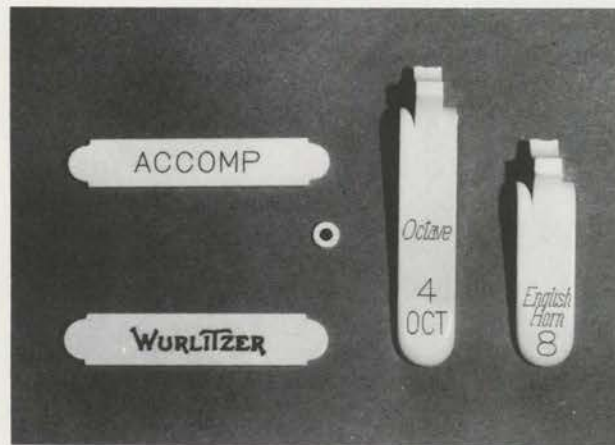
THELMA BOOMHOWER

The ranks of Detroit's Theatre Organists has again been thinned. Mrs. Thelma Boomhower passed away on March 21, 1972 after an extended illness. Mrs. Boomhower was the widow of Clarence Dudley Boomhower, prominent organist in many of Detroit's downtown movie houses during the 1920's and 1930's. During this same period, Mrs. Boomhower was solo organist in many of Detroit's neighbor-

hood movie houses, including the Great Lakes, Annex, Birmingham, Royal Oak and 6 Mile-Uptown. She was also the solo organist on the opening night of the Senate Theatre, now the home of the Detroit Theater Organ Club. Following the demise of live organ music in the theatres, she became a music teacher in the Detroit Public School system until her retirement in 1964. She also served as Minister of Music for the Embury United Methodist Church for many years. □

Complete
Engraving
Service

For the Pipe Organ Builder and Repairman



Supplier
of ...

DRAW KNOBS
DRAW KNOB STEMS
DRAW RODS
FLAT FACES (for wooden Draw Knobs)
STOP KEYS (all styles)
TILTING TABLETS
PISTONS
PLATES (Builders and name)

Exact Replicas copied from the Original Wurlitzer Factory engraving Templates. Tablets made from new Blanks (Mottled now available).

Old Wurlitzer Keys cleaned off and re-engraved.

All the items listed above we mold in all sizes, shapes and many colors.

CUSTOM INJECTION MOLDING

HESCO

P.O. Box 386 • 720 N. Mulberry Street
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
Telephone (301) 739-5911