



# CHAPTER NOTES

## BEEHIVE

Beehive Chapter members were treated to a very special evening on September 14, 1972. The meeting was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Conrad B. Jensen in Salt Lake City. The Jensen's had two Rodgers organs side-by-side. One is a classical organ, the other a theatre organ.

Dr. Jensen said that he was inspired by an advertisement on the back cover of THEATRE ORGAN magazine, "Live a little". He first purchased the model 340 theatre organ but Mrs. Jensen liked the sound of the classical organ better, so they are now 'a two organ family.'

The organs can be played separately or simultaneously. The room north of the organs has 60 or more speakers very carefully placed for the best possible sound and effect. Dr. Jensen and friends are still working on the placement of speakers. However, it is difficult to imagine what else they can

do to improve the beautiful sound of these two organs.

The chapter members would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. and Mrs. Jensen for a most enjoyable evening.

MAXINE V. RUSSELL

## CENTRAL INDIANA

July 23rd the Central Indiana Chapter members met at the home of Dave and Betty Roch in Indianapolis.

There was no special program planned so after the business meeting the members enjoyed playing their 2/7 Geneva organ and some of them gathered around the pool either to swim or just watch. In spite of a rain shower that afternoon we all had a wonderful time at the Roch's.

Then on August 13th we met at the home of Ed Morris in Indianapolis. Ed has a 2/7 Kilgen installation. Again there was no special program, but members played the Kilgen or just listened. For those wanting to stay outdoors Ed had speakers on the patio so the organ could be heard.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lay, owners of the Bill Lay Music Co., (formerly Schmitt Music Co.) of Indianapolis invited the CIC members for a "Get Acquainted Party" on Sunday afternoon September 10th. Mr. Robert Glass of Indianapolis entertained us with several selections on the Conn 3 manual theatre organ, then member Tim Needler played a couple of selections on the Conn 2 manual theatre organ. After this entertaining but brief program, the members kept the instruments in the store playing the rest of the afternoon. At one time we had Ada Fisher, Jack Pollock, and Virginia Byrd Rechteris on organs and Jim Tolle and Tim Needler on two pianos.

We all had a good time and lots of good music thanks to Bill and Tevis Lay.

Ben Dean was our host for our October 8th meeting at his home in Indianapolis. Ben's Co-hosts were Maynard Noland and Maxie Cole. Following the business meeting Gay Crandall of Anderson, Indiana entertained the membership with a short program on Ben's Hammond.

The open console time for the afternoon was held on the Gulbransen and Hammond organs belonging to the late Doris Stokes who was a well known organist in the Indianapolis area.

RUTH HAWKINS

## CENTRAL OHIO

Three members of COTOS, Tom Hamilton, Frank Babbitt and Neil Grover, operating as HBG Enterprises, recently presented Bill Dalton at the



Renewing an old love affair, Bill Dalton recently played the Robert Morton in the Ohio Theatre. He was the Ohio's first organist, in 1928.

Ohio Theatre's 4-20 Morton. This was done in association with Fritz Saenger, President of Van's Music Sales, who also arranged for a theatre organ seminar at his store two days later. Bill was the Ohio's first organist when it opened in 1928 and on this, his second trip back to the Ohio, he had another chance to renew an old love affair with the magnificent Morton there. In addition, he used a Rodgers 340 for one segment of the show as well as later at the seminar. Bill also cut a new record on the Ohio's Morton and this will be available before Christmas from Neil Grover, 5567 Crawford Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43229 at \$5.00 postpaid.

COTOS held its annual picnic in October at the country home of Ralph Charles. Ralph has a large home installation, mostly Morton and COTOS member Mike Williams was at the console for a silent movie followed by Tom Hamilton's sing-along.

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The long awaited installation of Tom Hamilton's Rodgers-Morton is underway and hopefully will be completed in time for the November meeting at Tom's home. Honor guest for the evening will be Roger Garrett, Ohio Theatre staff organist for ten years, who will be in town for a concert at the Ohio on November 19.

FRANK BABBITT

### CHICAGO AREA

Through the courtesies of the Saville Organ Company and the Auditorium Theatre Council, CATOE members were treated to a visit, on Saturday morning, September 12, to Louis Sullivan's architectural masterpiece in downtown Chicago. Tom Cottner, Saville's tonal director, presented the

172 rank instrument to us in a miniature recital which ran the gamut from Bach to Sousa.

This opportunity to hear the instrument in the Auditorium proved that the Saville is most definitely capable of all types of organ literature, in a full ensemble registration, with a theatrical sound.

The Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts, one of the newest chapters in ATOS, joined with CATOE on the morning of October 21 at the Rialto Theatre in Joliet. JATOE provided the Barton organ and CATOE provided organist Jack Hadfield. The lush tones of the majestic Barton brought back memories of concerts and radio broadcasts of yesteryear. The arc spotlight changed colors from time to time and

the entire theatre was resplendent in various hues, due to a recent relamping.

After Jack's concert, Frances Wood Irving, who had been organist at the Rialto years ago, and had played for radio broadcasts, made a cameo appearance at the console. JATOE Chairman Ray Nicond announced that the organ is played fairly regularly between shows on weekends with Taylor Trimby and Robert Calcattera sharing time at the console. Plenty of open console time gave many members a chance to try out the big Barton.

Eager listeners jammed the Coronado Theatre in downtown Rockford, (Ill.) on October 26 as the mighty pipe organ filled the auditorium with joyous music under twinkling

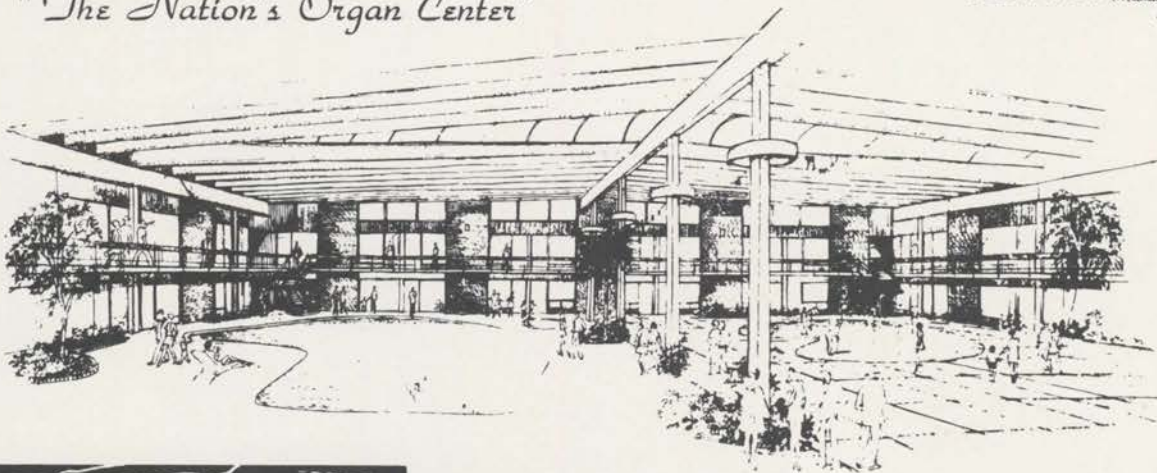
## Hit of the A.T.O.S. Convention!

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stars and floating clouds. It was John Muri, a true master of his art, at the console of the gigantic four manual Barton organ. After a brief opening, highlighted by the "William Tell Overture", John started his accompaniment to *The Phantom of the Opera* starring Lon Chaney. The mood of the film fit in perfectly with the pre-Halloween spirit.

Following the film, a closing Rodgers and Hart medley brought forth much applause and a requested "Stars and Stripes Forever" closed the show. John Muri was deluged with well wishing fans, among them, Leon Berry, who is continuing to recover from a recent stroke.

Encouraged by audience response to recent CATOE shows, more are being planned at the Coronado, the Montclare and the Oriental.

TONY TAHLMAN

### CONNECTICUT VALLEY

On April 8, the Conn. Valley Chaps visited two very interesting pipe organs. The first was a new three manual Casavant tracker instrument installed in the chapel at Choate School in Wallingford, Connecticut.

Don Corbett, Casavant representative, was on hand to demonstrate the organ, then opened up some of the divisions so that members could look through the innards and see the marvelous craftsmanship in the instrument.

After stopping for dinner, we visited the installation of Garo and Ruth Ray . . . a three manual organ with over forty ranks plus a built-in Hammond. It is a unique instrument, all of Garo's design which must be seen and heard



Justin Zitnay at the Garo Ray organ. (Preston Miller Photo)



ConValChap enjoy the Garo Ray residence installation. — (Preston Miller Photo)

to be believed. The artist was Justin Zitnay, a student of Rosa Rio, whose program alternated between classical and popular numbers. The chapter will watch the progress of this young artist and wish him luck.

The June meeting was held at the home of Harold and Eleanor Weaver featuring Russell Hubbard at the Weaver's 3/9 Marr & Colton. Russell, a student of both Rosa Rio and Ashley Miller was well prepared and ever in command of the instrument.

Following the concert we drove to Grassy Hill Lodge for a surprise testimonial dinner party for Stillman Rice, retiring National President.

The Wurlitzer Guild presented an engraved crystal and silver candy dish, and the Conn Valley Chapter presented an engraved silver tray.

Notables included Rosa Rio, Bill Yeoman, Ashley and Jo Miller and a guest from England. Billy Nalle sent a congratulatory telegram and his regrets for not being able to attend. Everybody had tickets for door prizes, and



Russell Hubbard at the Weaver's 3/9 Marr & Colton. — (Preston Miller Photo)

the magic numbers showered gifts to many.

Entertainment included Harold "Tyke" Niver, that one man orchestra on the Wurlitzer Synthesizer organ from Clinton Music Co. The realistic effects this guy gets out of an electronic really get to you.



ConValChap Chairman Frank Manion (left) and Wurlitzer Guild of New Haven President Edward Ohr present engraved silver tray and candy dish to Stillman and Mildred Rice.



The "Nairobi Trio, Augmented, Plus One" entertains at the Stillman Rice testimonial dinner. (L to R) Carmen Charette (Piano), Irv Twomey (Sax), Anita Twomey (Violin), Phil Stock (Organ). Live drummer is not Wurlitzer sideman — (Preston Miller Photo)

One of the highlights of the evening was Phil Stock's "Lonely Acres" band . . . otherwise known as the "Nairobi Trio, augmented, plus one." Featured were Anita Twomey and her "Magic Violin", Carmen Charette at the "Crystal Piano", Irv Twomey and his "Sexy Sax", a mystery man at the traps who substituted for the usual Wurlitzer Sideman (now that's a switch!), and Phil Stock at the organ. Just back from two months tour aboard (where they were asked to please leave their instruments at home), they were really good, and had increased their repertoire since we last heard them. Dancing ensued, and the band was joined by Dinner Chairman and MC, Gene Hubbard on Sax, Larry Hazzard on organ, and Doris Davis on Trumpet, and the fun went on 'til the wee small hours of the morning.

The Connecticut Valley Chapter closed its 1971-72 Thomaston Opera House concert series with Don Thompson on April 26 and 27.

Don played a varied concert with selections ranging from light classics to ragtime. He was lavish in his praise for the 3/10 Marr & Colton, and his performance showed he really enjoyed playing the instrument. Don played each selection with a vigor and enthusiasm which quickly spread to the audience on both nights. Several people who were at Friday's concert were seen again on Saturday night.

In particular, he must be commended for his excellent choice of registration, which demonstrated the versatility of the instrument and showed off some aspects of the organ we hadn't heard previously. Don clearly showed he had command of both the instrument and his audience, and in

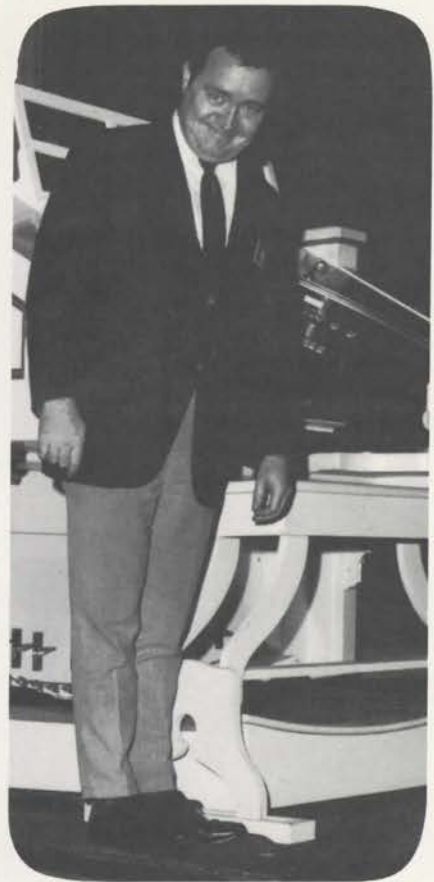
a reception given by the chapter after the Saturday concert, everyone had the opportunity to meet and talk with this highly personable and talented musician.



Kathy Roberg plays a tune on the "Roberg Special" — (P. Miller Photo)

Every so often we hear about "visiting firemen", and on August 12, we got into a firemen's convention first hand at our meeting split between Jack Roberg's in Plymouth (Conn.) and the Thomaston Opera House. Jack kept several charcoal pits warm, and we all cooked picnic lunches while enjoying the lawn and music from the "Roberg Special".

I began a series of seminars on the technical aspects of theatre organ with a detailed slide presentation of the history of the organ . . . slanted toward theatre organ. Did you know that the first organs were called "organum theatrum" and were invented by a Greek Barber named Cstibius? That name DOES resemble TIBIAS, now, doesn't it? A question and answer period followed with discussions ranging from Posthorns to wind pressures.



Bob Legon acknowledges applause from an enthusiastic audience at Thomaston Opera House. — (Preston Miller Photo)

Our evening artist at the Thomaston was Bob Legon from eastern Mass. Bob's chatty introductions were enjoyed by the audience, and the enthusiastic manner in which he tackled the instrument showed he had no fear of what was behind the shades. The organ had a complete workout and left the rafters shaking. Ed Welsh also



Janet Hassel, Conn. Val. scholarship winner at Thomaston Opera House. (P. Miller Photo)

had an opportunity to play a few numbers.

Another fine performance was given that evening by the winner of our most recent scholarship competition, Janet Hassel, whose cameo performance left us all wanting more. It is always great to see the interest of young people in the theatre pipe organ, and we were pleased to hear this very talented young lady at the keyboards.

AL MILLER

## DAIRYLAND

Dairyland's fall season opened with Dave Olson at the Hermes Wurlitzer. Dave's registration was fresh and colorful as he hand set this instrument because of the wind line being temporarily disconnected to the console and the combination action was inoperable. Dave's fingers moved as fast on the stop tabs as on the keys. The selections were executed with great feeling and he was called back for several encores. Dave is a fine musician and other chapters would do well to include him in their concert schedules.

Fred Hermes is installing the Peter Clauls Console lift from the Aurora Paramount Theatre. A large hole was dug in the basement to accommodate the lift and console which will go down below floor level and then rise four feet above the floor.

Fred Hermes, Jr., along with Rickey Johnson, John Hill and Pete Charmon, is working on the reinstallation of the Kilgen organ on the Grand Theatre in Wausau. The Wausau mini-chapter planned a concert on Thanksgiving to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the theatres' opening.

John Muri, prelate of the organ, played to a standing room only crowd on the Hermes Wurlitzer October 27. Opening with a magnificent overture he brought the console up in a golden spotlight as in the 1920's then into a few rousing tunes of the day. After these the console returned to the pit and John played, "Witchcraft" and "That Old Black Magic" as an accompaniment to some Hallowe'en effect-slides from the Brenograph. The audience sang with gusto on the sing-along which of course included some of Muri's hilarious wry humor.

*The Phantom of the Opera*, frightened many to near hysterics — 90% had never seen it before — and one child was carried screaming from a front row seat! One woman commenting that she had seen it in 1925 vividly remembers her husband falling

asleep during the preceding organ solos, waking up during all the screaming, just at the point where the mask was ripped off, then immediately fainting back to sublimity upon viewing that HORRIBLE FACE. One of John Muri's comments was, "It really doesn't scare them so much anymore because now you can see more Horrible faces on the streets!"

The program concluded with the "Stars and Stripes Forever" and a Brenograph effect slide, a waving flag which was most impressive.

Indirect credit must be given to the CATOE group in Rockford, Ill. who made it possible for John (prelate of the organ) Muri to be in the area at Hallowe'en.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the other chapters that have been so helpful to Dairyland by means of their support of our activities. It has been a great help to us to know that the other near-by chapters are so eager to see us grow.

After two years of negotiating with the IRS Dairyland is now recognized as a charitable and educational institution. It has recently presented two scholarships (more details later) and is in the process of receiving donations of money and materials. The details with IRS were worked out by Fred Hermes and Carroll Heft, attorney for Dairyland.

FRED HERMES

## DELAWARE VALLEY

Our scheduled events for September and October proved to be quite successful. The jointly sponsored meetings with the New York Chapter at the Surf City (N.J.) Hotel and Atlantic City (N.J.) Convention Hall attracted organ fans from far and wide. And the weather was perfect.

This was the case on Sunday, September 10, when TO devotees from all over New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and even California gathered for the annual NY/DVATOS bash at the Surf City Hotel, one block from the beach and the picturesque Atlantic Ocean. Theatre organists like Karl Cole and even "Poet and Peasant"-type musicmakers like Biff Claflin made the scene at the hospitable hotel-restaurant-bar. ATOS members kept the bench warm and the pipes tooting all day — and even into the evening hours.

The day was tarnished for many

chapter members, however, when the news of the death of Gilbert Smith reached us. Gil passed away as a result of the same automobile accident that had taken the life of his wife, Jane, a few weeks earlier. We'll sorely miss these two dedicated members, particularly remembered for their visiting Surf City each year.

A few weeks later, New York and Delaware Valley Chapterites descended on yet another shore resort. Atlantic City is one of those places that people only think of for a summertime visit. But it can be just as charming in the fall. The comparatively simple life of the few storeowners who maintain their boardwalk shoppes throughout the year seemed matched to that of the placid few who strolled on the barren boardwalk to the often ignored roar of the Atlantic's rolling waves.

Such was the setting for the early October meeting on the eighth. The convention hall ballroom's circa 55 ranks of Kimball responded well to the 160-or-so fingers that flowed over its four manuals. Those who played invariably made the comment that the delay between the chambers (which straddle the stage) and the console (perched high in a balcony to stage left) in some way contributed to their excellence in performance — or, more likely, lack of it. The organ was superbly maintained, with its many ranks of shimmering strings, snappy reeds, tinkling chrysolott, and lots and lots of reverb. The 160-or-so attendees had the opportunity to hear artists who represented the combined talents of New York and Delaware Valley musicianship and who, sometimes ponderously, tickled the 264 ivories.

Lyn Larsen's first eastern tour seems to be a success. And why not? We've heard it many times over from the West Coast that Lyn is one of the theatre organ greats. And, since his concert at John Dickinson High School (Wilmington, Del.) on October 21, we can agree wholeheartedly that he is indeed a master in his trade.

Not banking on his good looks, charisma, or cute sense of humor, Lyn set out to entertain his audience (which included C.A.J. Parmentier and Richard Purvis) in an impeccable styling of meticulous technic. Included in the Heinz 57 program, as Lyn called it, were selections ranging from 1920's piano novelty tunes to pieces composed by Chopin ("Fantasie- Impromptu," which Lyn termed Furioso

con Perspiration) and Elgar (the complete version of "Pomp and Circumstance"). He held his audience spellbound as he took the Kimball through its paces. He knew his way around the console as if he'd lived with it for at least a week; yet he'd only arrived the day before the concert.

Although most of the program was an education for many of the audience from the viewpoint of discovering new music, Lyn managed to rate two encores ("Bugler's Holiday" and "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue") after several returns to center stage and a standing ovation from an audience of seasoned concert-goers who apparently agreed that such songs as "Somewhere My Love" are too overdone.

It's comforting to know that some theatre organists can still demonstrate their skill through the disciplined fingerwork it takes to meet perfection. Oh, to hear more!

Our thanks to hostess Louise Portzline and house organist Bud Taylor of the Surf City Hotel and to organ curator Bill Rosser of Atlantic City Convention Hall, as well as to the JDHS Theatre Organ Society for affording us such an active two months.

By the way, for the records of all other chapters, our secretary's name and address are:

Betty J. Kouba, Secretary  
Delaware Valley Chapter, ATOS  
3835 Nancy Drive  
Wilmington, Delaware 19808

We have not been receiving mail from other chapters because it has probably been channeled to an outdated address. So we'd appreciate your changing your mailing lists accordingly. We would like to resume receiving material from you.

SHIRLEY HANNUM

## EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Our club organ now at Babson College made its first sounds this September since 1968 in its original home at Loew's State. The instrument is going together very well with blowers all in place and operating. The chests are currently being tested and wired. The console is 90% complete — less the combination action. For now, we are going to concentrate on the original 13 ranks as installed at Loew's State and then add the extra 5 ranks later as time permits for the projected 18 rank total. The "heart-in-mouth", "hold-your-breath" time is now upon us. When we fired the 16' Tuba low C

primary there was more dancing and jumping than you've ever seen from kids. The beast is waking up.

Our September meeting was held at Boston Piano & Organ in Natick, Mass. around several Rodgers models. Al Winslow, who is now affectionately known as the "Phantom of Hammond Castle" played excerpts of silent films. He does them regularly at the castle. Several others played as well.

Bob Legon is playing the last intermission on Saturday nights on the Boston Paramount's 3/14 Wurlitzer. It is reported that the rare 3/21 Wurlitzer at the Savoy is still playable, contrary to rumors. Also, Boston's Met (now Music Hall) 4/26 Wurlitzer is still in semi-playable shape. We will shortly resume work on the Bradford Hotel organs — the 3/11 in the grand ballroom and the little 2/5 in the Empire Room. Hopefully, these two Wurlitzers will be married, creating a 16 rank, 2 console instrument. The late Embassy Kilgen 3/9 from Waltham is now out of the theatre. The future location is undecided, but it will stay in Massachusetts.

ROBERT K. LEGON

## LAND O' LAKES

Our season started January 30 with a good turnout at the home of Claude and Sedonia Newman where Dodds Peterson and Paul Bowen entertained us on the Newman's Gulbransen Rialto.

On the fourth of March about forty members drove to Red Wing's Auditorium Theatre, one of Minnesota's last in-theatre installations, where we heard the 2/8 Kilgen played by Paul Bowen. Steve Adams and his crew had tuned the organ, and Paul played a fine selection of music for us, giving us a good picture of how the organ sounded during its heyday.

We had a change of pace for the April meeting. On the 23rd, over 75 members and guests heard Steve Thompson and Paul Bowen play the huge 4/61 Kimball at Soul's Harbor, formerly the Minneapolis Auditorium. An unusual feature was a duet on the Kimball and a Gulbransen Rialto featuring both artists. While this is a classic organ, it showed a surprising capacity for theatre music.

The mid-year high spot was a double feature on June 24, when we met at Rochester's Chateau Theatre which has a fine 2/9 Marr and Colton original installation. The Chateau's interior is very choice for such a small house.

Many of our best artists contributed short programs that more than compensated for the lack of a featured artist. In the afternoon, about 80 people drove to Spring Valley to a most unusual installation, that of Dr. Roland Matson. He has completely redone a large gothic roofed barn, with stained glass windows creating a magnificent roomy organ studio to house his 2/8 Wurlitzer.

July found us at the Don Taft's for our annual picnic. Clyde Olson loaned us an organ and Don had his accordion. The youngsters rode Don's horses, swam in his pool, or just hiked in the open around the place. Everyone enjoyed a day of good music and relaxation. A pot luck lunch showed us we have a lot of good cooks to go with our musicians too!

Harold and Lucille Peterson were hosts for the August meeting at their home, where their son's 2/5 Wurlitzer was given a good workout by our member artists. Son Don had barely gotten a 16 foot tuba offset going, but it was playing.

On September 17 we drove to Eau Claire, (Wisc.) to hear a long silent organ in the State Theatre. It is a 2/7 Wurlitzer, playable, but in need of much work. Steve Adams and his crew had undone some of the mouse damage in the console, and the rest of the organ was not too far gone so that we were able to picture its past glory. We had no featured artist, but with our many talented members we had a memorable day.

A chartered bus to Bismarck (N. Dak.) gave us two days to hear the fabulous 4/21 Minnesota Theatre Wurlitzer owned by Reiny Delzer, as well as the beautiful 2/9 Marr and Colton installation of Charles Welch. Those who attended the 1963 National Convention must vividly remember these organs which have been kept in like-new condition in magnificent studios that are second only to an old-time movie palace for theatre organ enthusiasts. A good sized group from Red River also joined us. Our own Clyde Olson and Lance Johnson (also of the Red River Chapter) presented concerts, and Don Taft, John Zetterstrom, Carl Eiler, among others, kept the music going the rest of the time. The trip to Bismarck is always a highlight of the year.

Plans are being made for a silent movie early next year.

Land O' Lakes is eagerly watching

three new installations by members which hopefully will be playing by the end of next year or before.

We hope that a major change in our method of operation will allow more chapter members to become involved in our activities. We now have a seven man Board of Directors to lighten the heavy load of scheduling and administering which formerly fell upon the chairman and vice chairman. An editor and assistant editor have been appointed to publish an expanded and improved bulletin to replace the present newsletter — a welcome lift for your secretary.

We are saddened that our vice chairman, Steve Adams, has moved to California, leaving the physical therapy field to enter theatre management. We will miss his good work restoring seemingly hopeless organs to playing condition for our enjoyment. Our loss will be Los Angeles' gain however, and we know his good work will continue out there.

LAWRENCE CRAWFORD

## LOS ANGELES

On September 30th the Los Angeles Chapter presented Bob Mitchell at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium Wurlitzer with the Mitchell Singing Boys in a public concert. The evening turned out to be a great success with a crowd of more than 600 attending. Bob Mitchell, who is celebrating his 49th year as a professional organist, served as staff organist at several Southern California theatres during the silent picture days. He organized his first Boys' Choir in 1934 and over the years the Singing Boys have appeared in numerous motion pictures. Being a native of the San Gabriel area, Bob had many interesting sidelights on the Civic Auditorium and the events that took place in years past when the Mission Play was an important part of the local scene. During the evening he introduced Betty Compson, the star of many silent pictures and one of his favorites when he was playing in the theatres. The theatre organ portion of the program consisted of the old standards played in the theatre organ style of the 20's. The Singing Boys' selections included a wide variety of tunes from "Beyond the Blue Horizon" and "Swinging on a Star" to "Born Free" and "Let There Be Peace on Earth." Bob conducted the singing group from his position on the organ

bench with the console lowered into the pit.

The auditorium of the Southern California Gas Company in downtown Los Angeles was the scene of the autumn general business meeting of the Los Angeles Chapter on October 5th. Items of interest discussed included a report on concert attendance during the year, a report on the Great Western Regional Convention held in February, and a report by Neal Kissel on the status of the Harold Lloyd Estate project. A nominating com-



Neal Kissel — (Bob Hill Photo)

mittee was selected to provide candidates for chapter officers for 1973. Deke Warner proposed that a Resolution of Gratitude to Joe Koons be adopted to thank Joe for his generosity in making his motorcycle shop Wurlitzer available for chapter functions.



Joe Koons. ATOSers are welcome at his motorcycle shop. — (Bob Hill Photo)

"Youth in Action". was the theme of the October 22nd concert at the Wiltern Theatre. Sixteen year old Donna Parker and nineteen year old John Bennett were the featured artists for this Sunday morning concert. A better-than-average crowd came out



John Bennett and Donna Parker took turns at the Wiltern Kimball. Their first ATOS performance was during what is now referred to as "the Stu Green Humiliation Concert" at the John Ledwon residence last December. — (Stufoto)

at 9:30 on Sunday morning to hear these young organists play a very fine program. Outstanding selections included "Theme from the Godfather", "Flapperette", "Don't Rain on My Parade" and "When the World was Young". The future of the theatre organ seems assured when such talented young people take an interest in this great instrument.

SAM DICKERSON

## MOTOR CITY

It's been a busy fall for the Motor City Chapter . . . it's interesting to recall how we struggled to put together our first show eight years ago, and now we are presenting three public shows this fall alone.

Members and their guests met at the Royal Oak Theatre Sunday September 10 to hear our own John Muri at the 3/10 Barton. We can always count on John for an excellent program, but this had to be one of his best. He featured a series of slides prepared from authentic silent scores of the twenties. John's wit and vast knowledge brought much to the presentation and our own enjoyment of the program.

Chapter members have been working every weekend for over a year at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor, and the pay-off finally came on September 20 . . . our first public program on the 3/13 Barton. Our guest artist of the evening was Lyn Larsen, who had the audience in the palm of his hand from his first number. It was

almost an indescribable evening . . . everyone seemed to feel the excitement of "live" entertainment in the house which has known such greats as Helen Hayes, Jack Benny, and Ethel Barrymore to name a few. Motor City technicians made use of every facility the theatre had to offer. Much of the auditorium's decorative lighting had gone unused for years, and the elegant grande drapery curtain had not been down in nearly two decades, but all were working again for this "premiere" Motor City Chapter program.

Thirty Motor City members were the guests of the West Michigan Theater Organ Club on Saturday, September 30 at the Michigan Theatre in Muskegon. Members from both groups shared the honors at the "big-sounding" 3/8 Barton console. A new departure for our chapter, this was the first bus trip of any distance and certainly will be the incentive for planning many others.

Motor City's second public show this fall featured Tom Hazleton at the Royal Oak Theatre on October 9 and 10. Two appreciative audiences enjoyed Tom's concert program, and his accompaniment for the feature film *Lilac Time* starring Colleen Moore.

On October 29th, at the Royal Oak Theatre, members gathered for the annual membership meeting. Chairman Claude Sheridan reviewed our progress during the past year, and projected some new goals for the future. Following a short business meeting three local "artists" exhibited their talents at the Barton console.

Committees are already forming and plans being made for the '74 convention scheduled for Detroit, and crews work weekly at the never-ending task of organ maintenance. Another rank of pipes and a Marimba are being added to the Royal Oak, and a piano is being wired into the Redford Theatre Barton.

The Motor City Chapter has grown to more than three hundred, and continues to grow. We would like to list all of the members who have given of their time and varied talents to make so many activities possible, but since space does not permit, we trust that their real reward is in hearing these great theatre pipe organs play, and in the applause of the thousands of guests who attend our public shows.

On behalf of the entire Motor City membership — our most sincere wish for your happiness this holiday season.

DON LOCKWOOD

## NIAGARA FRONTIER

On Sept. 13, the Chapter's Honorary Member of the Year Dick Smith presented a very successful organ concert at the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda, N.Y. His repertoire included music for one and all, including requests and — believe it or not — a vocal solo by Dick of Tiny Tim's famous "Tiptoe Through the Tulips." The packed-house crowd loved him. His increasing mastery over the Mighty Wurlitzer wins him more fans with each return visit. Organist Don Thompson was a special guest at the Riviera that evening. He stopped by to say hello on his way through to Rochester.

Congenial Pete Dumser made his second Riviera appearance on Sept. 27. His program possessed a fresh, happy sound from the start; but his audience took a little while to respond. And after they did, the mood was bright all the way. The personal touches that Pete adds to his delightful tunes make his concerts a pleasure to listen to. Just a brief mention here: Pete Dumser had one lung removed in March, but it hasn't affected his career in the least. A remarkable recovery, Pete!

Philadelphian Shirley Hannum performed at the Riviera on Oct. 18 to a small but enthusiastic audience. It was nice to have feminine charm gracing the console again. (A Jack o' Lantern sat on the console to give a Halloween spirit to the show.) A student of the late, great Leonard MacClean, Shirley possesses a fine musicianship and talent. Her program combined many current hits with some old standards. Her accompaniment skill was evident as we saw and heard the silent film *Teddy at the Throttle*. A bouquet of beautiful roses was presented to Miss Hannum at the close of her interesting show to express the Chapter's appreciation. Shirley Hannum has a bright future ahead of her, and she should be enjoying fame and fortune before too long.

SHIRLEY COLE

## OREGON

The Oregon Chapter held its October meeting in the home of Don and Arlene Ingram, in Portland. Seventy members and friends were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jonas Nordwall. Several announcements were made pertaining



Gerry Gregorius at the Ingram 2/8 Wurlitzer.

to current and future business. Jonas stressed the importance of working together to prepare for the 1973 Convention, which the Oregon Chapter will be hosting in Portland.

Jonas then introduced Arlene Ingram, treasurer of the Oregon Chapter, and husband Don. The Ingrams gave a short history of their recently completed 2/8 Wurlitzer. This meeting was the first public appearance of the organ. It was expertly restored by Bob Burke, owner of a fine 3/11 Wurlitzer. He received help from several chapter members. His number one assistant was Arlene Ingram.

Jonas Nordwall then introduced our guest artist of the day, Gerry Gregorius. Gerry is an outstanding organist on the theatre organ, as well as the straight organ. He played a well received, varied program, selected to show off the "new" Wurlitzer, which it did! His final number was a lively version of the old favorite, "Valencia".

After the concert, Dennis Hedberg announced the final plans for the ex-Oriental Theatre's 3/13 Wurlitzer. The organ, now up to 34 ranks and completely restored by Dennis, is going into a Pizza Palace here in Portland. Jonas Nordwall has been named house organist. A great organ and a great organist.

Bob Burke and the Ingrams are proud of the really fine theatre organ in the Ingram home. Many members expressed the opinion that it was the "biggest" sounding 8 ranks that they had heard — anywhere. Needless to say, the Ingram organ will be one of



the "stars" of the National Conventions. home organ tour.

Burke and the Ingrams are happy to show the organ to our out-of-town visitors, so if in Portland, give them a phone call.

DON INGRAM

## PIEDMONT

The Piedmont Chapter held its summer meeting at the Carolina Theatre Greensboro, on Sunday, September 10, 1972. Approximately forty were present when Chairman Claude Cansler welcomed the group and introduced the ten new members attending for the first time. William G. "Billy" Barnes (former member of Ohio chapter). Larry Coleman and wife Fern (from CATOE), John Davenport, J.R. Dunn and wife, A.O. "Buster" Richardson and wife and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest W. "Ernie" Vaupel (former New York chapter).

Vice chairman Paul Abernethy told of the work that had been done on the Carolina 2/6 Robert Morton by Mac Abernethy (Paul's son), Fred Berger and others to restore its former condition and playing qualities. A big THANK YOU to them from all the chapter members. He reported the organ was used during the World Premier showing of the movie, *43 - The Petty Story*, where stars Darren

McGaven, Richard Petty and other dignitaries made personal appearances.

Frank Netherland, owner of a fine 3/9 Kimball in his Stuart (Va.) home, entertained us with a thirty-minute program of familiar theatre organ tunes, interspersed with comments.

The console was then open to any and all who wished to try the keyboard for a few minutes each. Those who volunteered were Jane Sparks, Billy Barnes, Dr. D.E. MacDonald, J.R. Dunn, Larry Coleman, and Dr. Paul Abernethy. (Hope we did not omit anyone.)

This was our first chapter get-together at the Carolina since November 17, 1968. We expect to meet there more frequently now that the organ has been reconditioned.

Our thanks to Manager Neill McGill for his cooperation with the chapter for the use of the Carolina Theatre and its fine organ!

CLAUDE CANSLER

## Piedmont Chapter Guest of College

Piedmont Chapter members were the guests of Southeastern Community College in Whiteville, N.C. at the third appearance of J. Marion Martin in an organ program. In his production called "A Return To The Palace" Martin tried to recapture an evening as it used to be at the N.Y. Roxy in the late

twenties, complete with the lobby concert. This was in the form of a musical journey around the U.S. A prize was given to the person who could correctly list all the selections played and places visited.

The feature program began with an overture: "A Salute to George Gershwin", featuring the voices of Brenda, Mary Faye, and John Arthur in such favorites as "Summertime", "Somebody Loves Me", "The Man I Love", "Someone to Watch Over Me", and "I Got Rhythm". This was followed by the organ solo: "The Best Things in Life Are Free". The short subject, *Cops* with Buster Keaton, was a real sidesplitting laugh provoker, made even more so by the subtle organ background. For many of the students, this was the first time they had seen a silent picture with pipe organ accompaniment.

After a short intermission, Martin presented the Noonday Club Organogue "In the Good Old Summertime" which gave the audience a chance to participate in the program. Many laughs came from the old songslides.

This was followed by the feature movie: *Two Tars* with Laurel and Hardy. Again the skillful cueing of Martin's organ accompaniment did much to enhance this hilarious production. Many times it was difficult to

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hear the organ for the laughter.

It was the general opinion of the student body that they must be given another chance to "Return to the Palace."

DOUG SPIVEY

## POTOMAC VALLEY

Well over 100 attended the *August* Potomac Valley Chapter meeting – a repeat by popular request of the Convention GENII Seminar – at the Lautzenheiser Studio in Springfield, Virginia. Following Marvin's presentation the organ was kept busy as many waited their turn at the console of the 3/13 Wurlitzer.

"Convention Afterglow" was the theme of the *September* Chapter meeting at the Virginia Theatre in Alexandria. Two hours of taped musical excerpts from the Convention were coordinated with 230 colored slides to provide a most delightful show. The program was produced by Jean Lautzenheiser and presented with the cooperation of Lucien Phinney, Steve Tillotson, Ken Pabor, Bill Lamb, Paul Hoffman and Jerry Cunningham. Awards were presented to Convention Chairmen Woody Wise and Marvin Lautzenheiser through the courtesy of Max Mogensen of HESCO, makers of engraved organ parts, from Hagerstown, Maryland. To top the program



Dolores Wagner, Frank Lybolt and Ray Wagner at the unveiling of the Wagner's 2/7 Wurlitzer.

off, Florida organist Hal Stanton came from Fort Lauderdale and honored us with a mini-concert on the Virginia Theatre Barton.

*October* 8th was the official unveiling of the 2 manual 7 rank Wurlitzer belonging to Dolores and Roy Wagner, near Baltimore, Maryland and the event was truly memorable. The organ was originally in the State Theatre in Baltimore and Roy, with a lot of help from Louis Klein, Potomac Valley Chapter member from Geneva, N.Y., and Mark Hurley, has done a master-

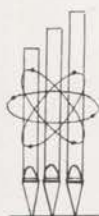
ful job of restoration.

The Wagner residence is large and well suited to the installation. The pipe organ is in one chamber speaking across a stairway into the basement room where the console is located. This room opens into the two-car garage to provide for additional listening space. In the garage area Roy, Lou Klein and Mark Hurley lined the walls with memorabilia; blueprints, drawings, and newspaper clippings attracted considerable attention – especially the article about the time a lion got loose in the State Theatre and ran through the audience!

The featured artist was Frank Lybolt from Norfolk, Virginia, who played our last Chapter meeting at the State Theatre in 1965. Well-known in New York in the 'good old theatre organ' days, Frank is the past Dean of the Norfolk Chapter of AGO and theatre organist par excellence. The overflowing attendance of 125 reminisced to music of the pre-50's and kept asking for more.

From the "Autumn Leaves" in full array around Loch Raven Reservoir to Frank's musical dedication to our lovely hostess, "Dolores", and the fall decor of the refreshment table, the scene can best be described in one word – perfection.

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## PUGET SOUND

On August 27th, members and guests heard organist Don Wallin on the chapter's 3/8 Wurlitzer-Marr and Colton, at the Haller Lake Improvement Club. Your writer was unable to attend this program, but knows from past experience listening to Don at his home base, Big Bob's Pizza, where he plays six nights a week, that his program had to be enjoyable and well done. Following Don's concert a report was given by Mahon Tullis on the 1972 Washington, D.C. ATOS Convention.



Andy Crow at the console of the Mt. Baker Wurlitzer. — (Don Myers Photo)

The Mt. Baker Theatre, Bellingham, Washington, was the scene of the September 24th meeting. Well known organist Andy Crow presented a very entertaining concert on the style 216,

2/10 Wurlitzer, a gorgeous organ that unfortunately lacks good tibia unification. The theatre seats around 1600 and looks like it just opened yesterday. A jam session and luncheon followed the concert. It was good to see so many of our Vancouver, B.C. members in attendance.

EDDIE ZOLLMAN, JR.

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN

The Maddys sell their lake front home and the Wurlitzer 2/9. It was a nostalgic event and the last of many meetings of the Denver ATOS around the pipe organ at the home of Bec and Edith Maddy. The work of maintaining the large home and acreage, the confining responsibility, and the wishes to pursue other interests — including travel — prompted the decision. After months of deliberation the decision was made to sell the home — a landmark they had designed and built on the lake they had created. This, of course, meant the disposal of the organ, purchased from the Denver Myan Theatre in 1945. The organ had taken some 20 years for proper installation, was solely responsible for the building of the house, the creation of the lake, and the promotion of the 40-acre, custom-built subdivision.

The home sold easily, and Duane Searle, National ATOS Vice President,

decided to buy the organ and install it in his home — thus keeping the organ in Denver. They were in the midst of packing, burning, and throwing out when Bill Johnston, the president of the group, called to ask if the club might have one more meeting. At first this thought seemed impossible, but somehow everything was ready by the last Sunday in the home. They were glad to have the group once more. Elinor Johnston, with Bill's help, had thoughtfully brought even the necessary coffee pot, paper cups (the cupboards were empty!) as well as "goodies" to help make a party.

Bec Maddy was playing the organ when the guests arrived. Then Bill Johnston opened the meeting with a nostalgic number or two. Bob Castle, Bob Young, Rick Mathews, and Ray Young played several numbers which the group enjoyed.

And so passed the intriguing and lovely, not to say nostalgic, organ period in the eventful lives of Bec and Edith Maddy. We hope not ended — for Duane says Bec may come and play the organ again in another Denver home. The Maddys? They have just finished a home in the foothills near Denver — "Pinerio" — with a view high up on a Ponderosa hillside.

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