

# A HAPPENING AT THURMONT

by Bob Mitchell

On Sunday, October 15, 1972, Dick Kline of Thurmont, Maryland, hosted the West Penn Chapter, Pittsburgh, Penna. at his studio/residence complex. The day's schedule began with a luncheon at the Holiday Inn in Frederick, Md. Members and guests, numbering one hundred, included Mr. Erwin Young, President ATOS; Mr. John Hose, Vice President Moller Organ Co. and his wife Augusta; Mr. Max Mogensen, President Hesco Engraving and his wife, Marjorie; Mr. Larry Ferrari of WPVI, TV, Channel

6, Philadelphia; Miss Shirley Hannum, organist at the East Lansdowne Theatre; Mr. Thomas Landrum of Richmond, Va. (Mr. Landrum is organ maintenance engineer of the Byrd, Mosque, and Loew's theatre organ installations in Richmond, Va. He was presented a special Potomac Valley Chapter award at the 1972 national convention for his efforts in this field); Mr. Wilson Bruggert of the Akron Civic Foundation, Akron, Ohio, accompanied by a number of co-workers from the Akron Civic Theatre. Mrs. Robert Flowers of West Penn Chapter

served as hostess for the event.

West Penn's program chairman, Bob "Kingfish" Mitchell planned and executed a most interesting and varied program which marked the end of this year's "Caravans for theatre organ sound", highlighting Mr. Larry Ferrari at the Wurlitzer 4/28, Mr. Rey Galbraith at same, Mr. Dave Knell at the Steinway Concert Grand, and Dick Kline at the Weber Duo-Art!

Larry Ferrari's ability to play for his audience and not to them was much in evidence. This, coupled with

Among those with West Penn at Dick Kline's. Left to Right: Wilson Bruggert, Larry Ferrari, Shirley Hannum, Erwin Young, Max Mogensen, John Hose.





Larry Ferrari, host, Dick Kline and ATOS Prexy Erwin Young.

his amiable personality resulted in a highly professional and entertaining program.

Rey Galbraith of West Penn Chapter in his own special way took the audience back to the nostalgic days of early radio with selections from popular programs of that era. He also demonstrated his ability to recreate the styling of Jesse Crawford with the "Forgotten Melody" theme. Rey sur-

Dave Knell at the Steinway.



prised the group with an encore which required a change of attire to that of a trolley motorman. This set the mood for a fast rendition of the "Trolley Song".

Dave Knell, a music student of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh delighted the audience with a program of piano classics on the Kline Steinway Concert Grand.

As a complement to the music portion of the day's events, Bob Mitchell called upon several notable guests to present some aspects of their particular endeavors relating to organ building, restoration and maintenance. Not the least of these was John Hose, of Moller Organ Co. He is widely recognized as one of the leading classic organ tonal consultants in America today. Did you know that the Post Horn relates to its classic counterpart known as the Spanish Trumpet en Chamade, or that the buzzy little rascal, the Kinura, boasts relationship with the classic Regal? Mr. Hose so enlightened the group. Max Mogensen, of Hesco engraving presented a bit of history on the manufacture and design of Wurlitzer stop tablets, and the major breakthrough affecting Wurlitzer organ buffs in July 1970 (See THEATRE ORGAN, August, 1970).

President Erwin Young was presented to the group and overwhelmingly received. Many members and guests present had never had the opportunity



Rey Galbraith does "The Trolley Song" complete with costume.

to meet a president of the National ATOS, nor hear his message directed to them in person. Cap Young came through with "flying" colors. He "zeroed in" with an interesting review of the formative years of ATOS, followed by words of encouragement for an even brighter future. His brief "flight" at Thurmont "United" four new members with the West Penn Chapter. So, Flaps up Cap'n and keep 'em comin'!

West Penn Chapter wishes to thank all those who participated in the "Happening at Thurmont", particularly Dick Kline, Jr. and his gracious mother, Mrs. Richard Kline, Sr., for their hospitality.

Past events for this year have included programs at the Lamplighter Inn at Columbia Park, Olmsted Falls, Ohio with hosts Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Brookins; Stan Todd's Steakhouse at Cincinnati, Ohio with hosts Stan and Virginia Todd; The Akron Civic Theatre with host Wilson Bruggert and his friends who have dedicated many hours in preserving such early theatre memorabilia as a Wurlitzer 3/13, a Brenograph, an atmospheric ceiling, and the general control systems for staging and projection. The name "Kline" is a well oriented sun in the firmament of the theatre organ world. West Penn was indeed fortunate to once again gather under its friendly warmth as the finale of this year's "Caravans for theatre organ sound." □