

ON STAGE! IN PERSON! YOU!

Have you ever had the desire to walk the "boards" where many of your favorite entertainers performed daily before large and excited audiences? If so, then you should plan to be in Chicago on July 20, 21, and 22 when THE THEATRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA holds its 4th Annual Convention with headquarters at Chicago's Bismarck Hotel.

Arrangements are being made for Theatre Historical Society to visit Chicago's famed theatres designed by the architectural firms of Sullivan, Rapp and Rapp, Crane, Levy and Klein, Lamb, and others. Also, during the entire month of July, the Chicago Public Library (downtown - 1892 L.C. Tiffany) will feature a large exhibit of theatre artifacts, blueprints, and photos from the Chicago Architectural Photographing Company.

One of the highlights of the Convention will be the tour of Louis Sullivan's restored Auditorium Theatre (1889) home of the world's largest electronic organ - a 172 rank Saville Organ.

Other plans include the Kemper Insurance building housing the Opera House and Civic Theatre. The home of Lyric Opera of Chicago, the auditorium features the enlarged and restored Skinner Pipe Organ. The long and narrow auditorium with the unusual sight lines on the orchestra floor has long been a point of discussion by patrons of the theatre.

A few blocks east of the Opera House, at State and Randolph Streets, we reach the mecca of Chicago's most famous Motion Picture Palaces. There they are - Rapp and Rapp's Oriental, State Lake, and Chicago Theatres; C. Howard Crane's United Artists; the Woods, Roosevelt, Michael Todd,

Cinestage, Bismarck, and McVickers Theatres - nearly 20,000 seats in a sea of splendor and fantastic architecture.

THS members will also visit Chicago's largest Rapp and Rapp theatre - the Uptown - 4400 seats, the third of Chicago's original "Big Three", the Tivoli and the Chicago preceding it. As with the other large "loop" theatres, the Uptown staged presentation shows along with screening the big films of that era. The Uptown also housed the area's largest Wurlitzer pipe organ ever built at that time (1925) for a movie palace where such luminaries as Jesse Crawford, Henri Keates, Preston and Edna Sellers presided at the console in addition to their regular duties at the "loop" theatres. The Wurlitzer's of the Chicago and Oriental are the only survivals of a changing era in motion picture film presentations.

The scheduling of the Chicago Theatre Tour has been arranged to precede the ATOS Portland meeting so that interested members can easily attend both events.

Registration fees for the 4th Annual Convention of Theatre Historical Society of America are \$15.00 for individual and \$3.00 for each child or spouse. Registration fees include costs for bus tours of the theatres, and a copy of "A Chicago Theatre Guide", an important document listing theatres, architects, and other historical facts of Chicago's theatre past and present.

Advance registration may be made by sending a check or money order to THEATRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONVENTION c/o Mrs. A.L. Peterson, 4216 N. Kedvale, Chicago, Illinois 60641. □

VOX POPS



Conducted by Stu Green

Readers are encouraged to submit interesting sidelights on the organ hobby (exclusive of chapter news items) material they believe will be of general interest about local organ activities and installations and the people who work at the hobby. We know "there's VOX POPS in them there chapters" and it only requires a 6¢ postcard to get it to VOX POPS Editor, Box 3564, Granada Hills, California 91344. If the contributor can afford an 8¢ stamp, why not include a black and white photo which need not be returned.

Northern California now boasts thirteen pipe organs in Pizza Parlors, restaurants and cocktail lounges, in addition to six playable organs in theatres, reports Dewey Cagle in the March issue of the Bay Area Tabs & Drawbars. The latest is a brand new 2/8 instrument built by Wicks to Wurlitzer pipe specs. It is installed in the Red Vest at Seaside, Calif. (near Monterey). Bob Jacobus and Judd Walton made the installation. The instrument was opened by organist Bud Taylor and may be heard nightly. Owner Peter Decker decided on a newly built pipe organ after checking into the costs of existing instruments, including refurbishing, crating and shipping. All totalled, it was cheaper to start from scratch.



The Annual Home Organ Festival will be held at Asilomar Park, near Monterey, Calif. between September 18 and 22, reports Festival Chairman Tiny James. The list of exhibitors is the largest ever. Festivaleers will be able to check out the latest models by