



Congratulations from Hector Olivera (right) bring a big smile from Ronnie Pedley, National Yamaha Festival winner in Chicago.

## Yamaha Winner Bound for Japan

Another honor came to the Potomac Valley Chapter June 17 when 12-year-old member Ronald Pedley became the Junior Division Winner in the third Annual Yamaha National Electone Pops Festival. The 1000 nationwide contestants in 140 cities were narrowed down to 202 regional competitors in four regions. There were three divisions – Junior (under 16), Intermediate (16 to 25), and Pro/Am. One winner in each division plus four wild cards competed in the finals in Chicago's Conrad Hilton grand ballroom before an audience of over 2000. Steve Allen was the Master of Ceremonies. The impressive panel of judges included such notable musicians as Bill Irwin, Lenny Dee, John Seng, Fred Waring, Jimmy Smith, Sarah Vaughn, and Elmer Bernstein.

A medley consisting of "Joy" and "Jesus Christ, Superstar" was Ronnie's selection. He won first prize – an expense-paid trip to Japan for himself, one of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dever Pedley of Springfield, Virginia, and his teacher, Jean Lautzenheiser. They will attend the International Yamaha Pops Festival for a week in Japan this October.

In addition to his interest in the organ, Ron plays trumpet in his school band, and took up piano six months

ago. But in baseball season music takes a back seat while this Little League catcher gives his best to baseball. □

## Closing Chord

**Jack Ward**, 75, died suddenly in New York City on July 25. Associate staff organist at Radio City Music Hall for 16 years, he played on NBC radio previously for many years. He is survived by three children, Jack, Jr., James and Mrs. Mary Griffith.

A Requiem mass was held at Faith, Hope and Charity Chapel Annex in St. Patrick's Cathedral with burial in Pennsylvania.



JACK WARD

**Laurens Hammond**, inventor of the Hammond electric organ and America's first electric clock, died in July, after a short illness. He was 78.

A native of Evanston, Illinois, he invented the electric organ in 1932 and founded the Electric Organ Co. in Chicago.

**Mabel B. Grierson**, widow of Rochester, N.Y.'s best known theatre organist, Tom Grierson, died on June 11. Mr. Grierson, who had played theatre organs in Brooklyn, St. Louis, Toledo and Buffalo before he achieved his fame in Rochester as house organist at the RKO Palace Theatre, died in 1966.

Mrs. Grierson is survived by a son, Jack, and a daughter Mary.

**George E. Codd**, for several years the treasurer of the Rochester Theatre Organ Society, died on June 12. His wife, Ethel, two sons and two sisters survive him. □



*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.*

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### TO THE EDITOR:

In the April issue you mentioned the movie *WICKED! WICKED!*, and the fact that a theatre organ was played and seen on the screen. There was a movie made about 3 or 4 years ago that had an organ in it. The movie was *ANGEL IN MY POCKET*, starring Andy Griffith. In the movie Andy portrays a newly ordained minister that scrounges an old theatre organ to replace a wheezing old pump organ. My question is, what make of organ was it, and where was it located? When I saw the movie years ago, when it was first released, I didn't know the dif-