

## DEPARTMENT OF COINCIDENCES

Marches were also well received. In time, however, the patrons demanded lighter music. The remaining silents continued to be accompanied by both organ and orchestra, as were comedies and news-reels. However, sound was here to stay and, as time went on, the organists had less to do.

J. Gordon Baldwin was released as organist and eventually became musical director of WHEC in Rochester, playing its studio Wurlitzer installed in 1934. Later, he left town for parts unknown. Some say he went to California; others say he went to New York. If anyone knows of his whereabouts, the writer would be most interested.

In 1930, the Piccadilly began a policy of stage shows, using the organ for solos and song slides for a year. Hugh Dodge entered the broadcasting field, first for WHEC, then for WHAM, broadcasting from the Madison Theatre in 1930 and 1931. The theatre had a style E Wurlitzer and Hugh became his own announcer. The theatre's coming attractions were announced on this 3-times-a-week program in the late afternoon.

In 1934, Mr. Dodge became organist and choir director of St. Monica's Church, a position he has held ever

The February, 1973 issue of *THEATRE ORGAN* contained three articles concerning two organists from Franklin, Pennsylvania, neither of whom had heard from the other in 30 years. Two articles by Anson Jacobs,

since. In 1935, industrialist and restaurateur, Fred J. Odenbach, signed him to play dinner music in the Peacock Room of his Odenbach Restaurant, using the first Hammond organ played publicly in Rochester. Another local organist had claimed he was the first, but Mr. Dodge easily refutes this.

Mr. Dodge looks back on his theatre days with fond remembrances. He feels his career as organist-teacher is that much richer because of this experience. He says, "To be a good teacher organist, you needed, besides the basic equipment of a musician, a retentive memory and keen originality. All these factors were necessary to be successful."

A gentleman with character, a musician of note — that's Rochester's Hugh J. Dodge. □

who was more than "a small part of the golden era", also told of the latest disposition of the 3/9 Wurlitzer in the Latonia Theatre in Oil City, Pa.

The report of Potomac Valley Chapter's November meeting tells of another organist originally from Franklin, Jim Smiley. Jim writes that "Jake", as Anson was known to his many friends, was the inspiration for Jim's changing his college engineering course to organ studies.

"Jake" played at the Orpheum Theatre in Franklin on a two-manual Seeburg-Smith organ of about 10 ranks. Frequently, a road-show picture would be accompanied by organ and a small orchestra, in which Jim's father, Burt Smiley, played cornet. Needless to say, Jim and his brother always sat in the pit to admire the way "Jake" conducted from the console. Nobody ever played marches with more gusto and fidelity to voicing than "Jake".

Jim also recalls that he came to Oil City at the request of the owners of the Latonia Theatre to become second organist when the theatre opened. A quirk of application of rules by the American Federation of Musicians lost Jim the job, which was filled for a short time by imported non-union organists. Later, union organists were brought in, featuring Arlo Hults. Years later, Arlo followed Jim in a combo at the Neptune room in Washington, D.C. where they became friends.

It goes without saying that Jim Smiley is anxiously awaiting progress in the reinstallation of the Latonia organ with hopes of playing it again someday. □

Rochester's Piccadilly Theatre where Hugh Dodge played the first all-talking picture "Intolerance". Date of picture is February 1929.



## Closing Chord

John A. Holywell of Unionville, Ontario, was killed when his car smashed into a tree on November 3. John, a charter member of the Niagara Frontier Chapter ATOS, was a dedicated theatre organ enthusiast. Always ready to assist fellow members in moving, installing or maintaining their instruments, he was working on his own installation recently. His widow and two children survive. □