



CHAPTER NOTES

ALABAMA

The Alabama Chapter may be lacking in the number of theatre organs available to play, but we are not lacking in talent, variety of styles, or originality in programs.

At our Sept. meeting, we were privileged to have as our guest, Mr. Erwin A. Young, Jr., National President. This was Mr. Young's second visit and we feel honored by his interest. He gave us a few highlights of the National Convention, and praised the Alabama Organ as being one of the finest installations in the Nation.

Also present at the September meeting, were members of the South-eastern Chapter who were responsible for beginning the restoration of the Alabama Wurlitzer. These guests included M. E. Watson, Clay Holbrook, Charles Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Mills, and Blake Braley.

Jay Mitchell, Alabama organist, was the performer and he dedicated his program to these guests who were especially invited for that purpose. Jay did a fantastic job of showing off the versatility of the organ, and his frequent use of the percussive instruments gave evidence that Larry Donaldson and his work crew are doing a good job in continuing the maintenance and restoration.

Jay's program was well planned and full of surprises. His quick change of moods and complete change of pace leaves us a bit breathless sometimes, but the ovation of the audience showed overwhelming approval.

Speaking of surprises! Norville Hall came out with a good one in October. He had programs printed, leaving blank lines for the first half of the program. We were instructed to try to guess the names of each piece and the show it came from, and fill in the blanks. During intermission, these programs were picked up and new programs passed out. These had the answers printed on. Then Norville continued his beautiful performance.



Norville Hall played at the Alabama Chapter's October meeting.

Mr. Hall dedicated his program to Mrs. Lillian Truss, Dr. Edward Eigenschenck and Dan Keil, all people who had a part in his musical training. His selections covered songs of the past to "mod" selections such as Alfie and The Apartment Theme.

Some of us older members tend to think of only older songs as good theatre music, but Mr. Hall quickly changed our opinions. His originality and imagination in registration was outstanding and his program certainly proved to the members of the Alabama Chapter that when it comes to theatre music, there is no generation gap.

ALLEEN COLE


ALOHA

The date, October 21; the place, Hawaii Theatre; the organ, 4/16 Robert Morton; the artist,??

That was about all our chapter members knew when they attended a recent Mystery Artist concert given here by a "veteran" theatre organist. It happens, however, that "veteran" applied to military service only — the artist was Navy Chief Bob Brooks. Also misleading was the announcement that he was to play a "silent", which meant not a movie but slides.

The format was simple but effective: Take movie publicity photos from 1940 to 1960, add humorous captions relating to organs or chapter members and events, have slides made, and concoct a musical accompaniment. Add a cape and wig for disguise, and arrange for a hired assassin to "shoot" the organist at the end of the program to get him off the bench. The result was an often side-splitting morning of fun for the many members in attendance. We certainly recommend that other chapters with a sense of humor try the same.

Arrangements are being made for a



NOEL

EDDIE WEAVER

holiday greetings

from

DELAWARE VALLEY, ATOS

"Spirit of '76"



public concert on December 4 at Punahou School, featuring the fabulous David Kelsey. David has been in Hawaii for several months and will return to the Bay area following the holidays. Last March he received several standing ovations following a concert at the famous Wiltern Theatre (see T.O., June '73).

The Punahou School concert will be given on an Allen Theatre Deluxe; since David owns a 3-manual Allen in California, he will be right at home, and is well-versed in eliciting sounds that "no one ever knew the organ was capable of." At least such was the remark of Dan Engelhard, Aloha Chapter member and Allen organ owner.

Dick Simonton, a frequent visitor to Hawaii, was in town in early October, and stopped in at the Waikiki Theatre the same morning that David and the Waikiki's 4/16 Morton made their first acquaintance. After a short while of experimentation, artist and instrument became fast friends. We anticipate the same rapport between David and his audience in December.

If you should ask "Why an Allen when there are two 4/16's in theatres there?", it's basically that the Mortons need work, the chapter needs funds to work on the organs, and the theatres are difficult to schedule at a reasonable hour. Hence the decision to go plug-in. Regardless, there will still be the "nostalgia" sound, the "now" sound, and everything in between, with great theatre organ stylings.

ROGER ANGELL

CENTRAL INDIANA

Good food, good fellowship and plenty of GOOD PIPE-ORGANING were enjoyed by 60 members and guests at a pitch-in dinner meeting on Sunday, July 8 at the home of Ed Morris in Indianapolis. No formal pro-

gram was planned since Ed is in the process of installing a different console and expanding his 2-manual Kilgen. In fact, a number of members were frantically working with Ed on the organ as members and guests were arriving, in an attempt to get the instrument playing for the meeting — and they succeeded! This proves what an energetic and enthusiastic group the ATOSers are! As if we ever had any doubts!

Most of the business meeting was devoted to discussion, planning and decision-making on the projects at hand. Open console time followed the meeting and everyone enjoyed trying out Ed's "new" instrument which he promises will keep growing and growing.

The August meeting is one we always look forward to. The Rochs, Dave and Betty, have a lovely home located in a beautiful wooded area with a swimming pool to intrigue the non-performers and a 2-manual Geneva Theatre Pipe Organ to thrill the organists. The Geneva came from the old Ritz Theatre in Indianapolis. Bob Cox served as co-host.

After the business meeting we had another go-round at what we tried a few months ago, that is, several members interpreting and performing the same selection, pre-selected and arranged, of course. "Whispering" had been so much fun, it was decided to do "Singing in the Rain". Renditions

were given by Ruth Ward, Jack Pollard (who incidentally appeared in the cameo spot on the Benson High School's 3/24 Kimball at the Convention), and "over enthusiastic" Tim Needler, our president. By "enthusiastic" I mean that Tim became so zealous that the main tremulant collapsed on the Geneva. Tim does play a "mean" and exciting bit of organ. This didn't hinder organ playing at all and everyone enjoyed hearing and playing the Rochs 2/7 Geneva the remainder of the afternoon.

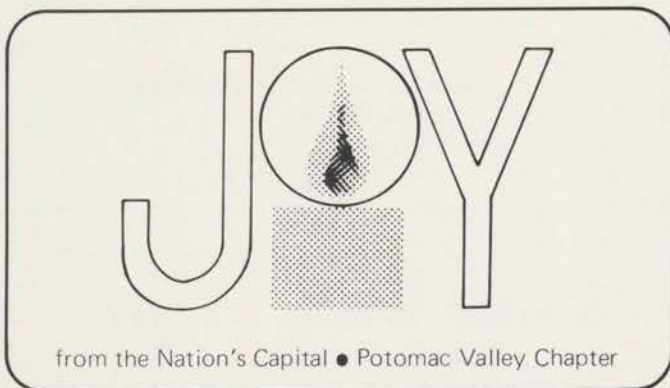
Extra curricular activities made August a big month for CIC. The 2-day weekend trip to Wisconsin turned out to be one of the biggest events the club ever had and despite malfunctioning of the bus air conditioning system in 98° weather, the trip was a superb one. As one member said "and we didn't have to push it (the bus) up the mountain" which is exactly what a group had to do on our Tennessee trip last year.

First stop was for lunch at Martini's Restaurant at Crystal Lake, Illinois where there is a Wick's 2/8 theatre pipe organ. Another stop was made at the residence of Marty Dohm in Madison. Mr. Dohm has the 3/12 Kimball organ from the Orpheum Theatre in Madison and according to reports, it is one of the most outstanding installations in the country. We understand he built his home around the organ. The big event was the Tommy Bartlett Water Show at the Wisconsin Dells on Saturday night. Beside being a spectacular show, of special interest to us was the fact that one of our members, Ken Double, accompanies the Water Show. Ken does a marvelous job on the 3-manual Conn theatre organ which provides a delightfully beautiful sound for the background and performance music for the show.

It'll be . . .

PIPES GALORE IN '74

NATIONAL CONVENTION
DETROIT



The first stop Sunday morning was at the Ringling Theatre in Baraboo, Wisconsin. This theatre is absolutely gorgeous and is a copy of a French Opera house. It is difficult to describe anything so fantastically elaborate and beautiful but anything that Mr. Ringling ever did was ultimate in detail and design. Ken Double presented a most interesting and enjoyable program on the 3/9 Barton. Dennis James also played a couple of numbers and then he and his bride of a few months, Heidi, delighted everyone by performing an organ-piano arrangement of "Maple Leaf Rag". Dennis has achieved fame all over the country with his vibrant and versatile theatre organ styling and is equally as great in the field of classical music. Heidi is an accomplished concert pianist. What a team!

Sunday afternoon continued to provide what everyone came for — outstanding organ installations and the one at the next stop in the home of Fred Hermes in Racine, Wisconsin, was just tremendous. Fred has a 5-manual Wurlitzer. This tremendous organ was originally installed in the Michigan Theatre in Detroit and is one of only three 5-manual organs built by Wurlitzer. A most enjoyable program was given by Fred Hermes, Jr., who did a magnificent job on this fantastic instrument.

A huge vote of thanks to each of the people who so graciously opened his home to such a large group so that we might enjoy the revival of the mighty theatre pipe organs. To hear, see and play them again brings back many pleasant memories to those of us who were fortunate enough to have actually lived during those years, and it is most gratifying to know that all was not lost when the organs were silenced so many years ago.

RUTH D. WARD

CENTRAL OHIO

A four page story with pictures in the Sunday Magazine Section of the *Columbus Dispatch* recently, gave desired and timely publicity to our chapter. Chapter members and co-owners of the Robert Morton at the Ohio Theatre, Tom Hamilton and Carlos Parker, faced the monumental job of washing the forty-plus years accumulation of soot and dirt from the organ prior to having the reeds professionally revoiced. Their call for help was enthusiastically answered by our members and the job of bathing the organ was completed in record time with loving care. Feature writer, Mary McGarey and Photographer Rob Rhee of the *Columbus Dispatch* obviously enjoyed their assignment, both nimbly climbing the vertical ladder to the chambers, noting the hundreds of pipes being washed and observing our members and friends in position as a human chain to return the pipes to the chambers. If our efforts deserved any personal reward it was ours when we listened to the organ during the beautiful concert by Tony Fenelon in October. All is now in readiness for the concert by Dennis James on November 9 and the subsequent recording he will make using the Ohio Morton.

Our annual picnic in August at the home of Fay and George Chakeres was outstanding. Our hosts left nothing undone that could add to the enjoyment of the day. Fay's Hammond (200 series) was placed outdoors and in the lovely woodsy setting inspired constant use. Bill Sharp of Sharp's Keyboard Music furnished a Conn organ for our use for the day. This was placed indoors and beautiful organ music filled the air.

September's annual meeting and election of officers was held at Pontones Music Store in Grove City, Ohio. Mr. Pontones demonstrated the Saville

Church Organ and speaker construction plus giving a quiz he had worked out on tape whereby we could guess if the organ being played were pipes or electronic. He told us just enough about the forthcoming Saville theatre organ to make us very interested in hearing it as soon as it is available.

Ralph and Leona Charles of Somerset, Ohio continue to serve the purposes of ATOS in the most delightful ways. On October 7 two concerts were presented using their Robert Morton, with all proceeds for the benefit of the Retarded Children's Ass'n. Maximum seating is 200 and all 400 tickets were sold prior to the day of the concerts. Kenny Winland of Hopewell, Ohio played both concerts. Kenny is not only an accomplished organist but so thoroughly acquainted with Ralph's Morton that his concerts are always anticipated.

Our next meeting will be hosted by Ralph and Leona and a report of all that is new (and there is always something new) with their Morton will be reserved for the next issue.

We congratulate the New York Theatre Organ Society on obtaining their tax exempt status from IRS and thank them for additional details in their informative article in *The Horseshoe*, Oct. 1973. It offered valuable information to our chapter in our endeavors for tax exemption and better understanding in that it took them three years and one month to accomplish their goal. The help received from New York and others enables us to announce that our exempt status was received during October.

IRENE BLEGEN

DAIRYLAND

The Dairystate was honored August 25th and 26th by a visit from the Central Indiana Chapter. After stop-



ping at Marty Dohm's home to hear his magnificent Kimball installation in its outstanding acoustical and visual setting near Madison, they toured the Wisconsin Dells area. Sunday morning the group were guests at the Al Ringling Theatre in Baraboo, an attractive miniature of a European opera house, where a masterpiece by Dan Barton resides. The group was amazed at the beautiful condition of the organ and the theatre, even to the silk lampshades on the light fixtures.

At three o'clock Sunday afternoon Central Indiana arrived at Fred Hermes' where they met with Dairyland members for a concert. After the usual opening program with the Brenograph, Dairylanders were given a special treat — Dennis James, who made the tour into Wisconsin with his lovely wife, Heidi, played a short impromptu concert demonstrating his unusual technique. Dennis also played at Marty Dohm's and the Ringling Theatre. Our good fortune in hearing Dennis resulted from his being in the Indiana area at the time of the Wisconsin tour.

After the program there was open console while visitors inspected the Brenograph and lighting equipment. Everyone had a great time.

Many thanks to Tim Needler, president of Central Indiana chapter; Don Evenson, manager of the Ringling Theatre; Marty Dohm for use of his Kimball; and others who arranged this most successful inter-chapter get-together.

FRED HERMES

DELAWARE VALLEY

September and October have been busy months of inter-chapter activity. Our annual Surf City bash, for example, proved twice as entertaining this year. Garden State Chapter, Delaware Valley, and New York coop-

erated with the new group to welcome them aboard, with Jim Carter (Delaware Valley's program chairman) serving as M. C. A special surprise was in store for both Saturday night early birds and Sunday afterglow relaxers. Larry Ferrari stopped in Saturday evening, and Leroy Lewis tickled the ivories as a grand finale on Sunday evening. Our thanks to the Crane's, owners of the Surf City Hotel, for the opportunity to hold this meeting around the Wurlitzer organ at this resort on the Atlantic Ocean.

In early October, the fall foliage provided beautiful scenery for the drive to Pennsylvania Dutchland's Marietta (PA). The afternoon's festivities began with introductory words from visiting national president, Erwin Young. Glenn Hough, house organist at the Marietta, proved through his styling that he knows how to handle the 3/26 Wurlitzer/Page. Chairmen Galbraith (West Penn), Lautzenheiser (Potomac Valley), Schrader (Delaware Valley), and visiting chairman Balfour (Garden State) were on hand to spark this inter-chapter meeting.

In the evening, Ashley Miller, through his excellent use of the instrument's potential, and his musicianship, again exemplified his ability to capture an audience.

A very successful tri-chapter day, indeed. Our thanks to neighboring chapters — New York, Potomac Valley, and West Penn for their support in successful programming over the past two months.

SHIRLEY HANNUM

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

By the time this is published Allen Mills will have presented his 3rd concert Nov. 10 on the venerable old 2/14 former WNAC studio Wurlitzer now located in Stoneham Town Hall. Bringing Mills back to Stoneham has been one of this chapter's fondest desires,

and this concert represents the fulfillment of a dream, which not so long ago was thought to be an impossible dream, because Mills had relocated to Florida. Luckily for us, his relocation was relatively short-lived.

The rage nowadays in Eastern Mass. theatre organ circles seems to be the rediscovered silent movie with organ accompaniment, thanks to Al Winslow and Charlie French. French furnishes the film and projection through his Silent Era Foundation while Winslow provides the greatest sound in the world intensifying every emotion portrayed on the screen. The pair Al and Charlie have been very popular at Hammond Castle, Gloucester, Mass., with its 4/144 custom concert organ and at First Baptist Church, Somerville, Mass., with its 3/10 Wurlitzer, one of the beautiful ones, rebuilt and installed by John Phipps and the church parishners — all green help.

Gilbert Parmenter, with the enthusiastic support of his wife Ruth, only several months ago made the decision to alter family life style by forsaking the electronic instrument in the living room for a 2/10 Wurlitzer in the basement; and is that a sound chamber — all four walls solid stone and masonry providing countless irregularly reflecting surfaces at all angles! When "Gibby" strikes, he strikes lightning fast, and is already better than 75% finished. "Gibby" and Ruth attended the national convention this year for the first time and reported to me how pleased they were to meet so many gracious and wonderful new friends from all parts of the country.

ERIE RENWICK

LAND O' LAKES

The Land O' Lakes Chapter was privileged to attend the long-awaited dedication of members Byron and Lorraine Carlson's Opus 1587 5-man-

MELE KALIKIMAKA

AND

HAUOLI MAKAHIKI HOU

FROM

ALOHA CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 88012 — HONOLULU, HAWAII 96815



Season's
Greetings

the
Lautzenheisers

Jean
Marvin
Genii

ual, 21 rank Wurlitzer, Sunday, October 7.

The Carlsons purchased the second of three ever manufactured 5/21 Wurlitzers from the Chicago based Balaban and Katz chain MARBRO Theatre in 1959. They took great care to reconstruct the chamber layout as it was in the theatre, and also spent countless hours scraping and then refinishing the huge, ornate console which is one of the most spectacular features of the installation.

The dedicatory concert was performed by Bob Arndt of Des Moines, who was responsible for wiring and bringing the Wurlitzer to its present condition.

Preceding Bob, owner Byron played a short set of tunes topped off with an arrangement of "Sweet Lorraine", dedicated to his wife for all her effort on the project.

Bob took over the console and led off with the appropriate "Chicago" and highlighted his concert with some Polynesian tunes and two Jesse Crawford standards, "What Are You Waiting For, Mary", and "I Love To Hear You Singing".

Although all final touches on the organ have not as yet been completed, the sound was impressive to the enthusiastic crowd in attendance.

LOS ANGELES

The featured artist for the September 16 concert at the Wiltern Theatre was Byron Melcher, promotion manager for the Thomas Organ Co. Byron



Bob Ralston (left) congratulates Byron Melcher following Byron's Wiltern concert. — (Bob Hill Photo)



Deke Warner and some of his "Stars of Tomorrow." Shown are Candy Carley, Janet Jordan, Lucille Clement and co-worker Donna Parker. — (Bill Hill Photo)

was active in the chapter before he moved to Chicago in 1970 and it was a real pleasure once again to hear him give the giant Kimball a real workout. His program included many old favorites. Following intermission, plaques were presented to Deke Warner and Donna Parker in recognition of their fine work in producing the *Stars of Tomorrow* show in July. Five of the "stars" were on hand to surprise Deke in the midst of his announcements. Donna was even more surprised when she too received a plaque.

More than 65 members and friends attended the Sunday afternoon jam session at the Elks building. Organists who tried their luck at the 4/58 Robert Morton included Candi Carley, Mike Cahill, Avery Johnson, Seth Anderson, Dixie Miles, Larry Siebert, Paul Hamilton, Bob Salisbury, Shirley Obert, Edward Sprowl, Merle Bobzien and Joyce Kramer Villa. Bob Hill, coordinator for the Pay and Play plan, handled the Master of Ceremonies chores and Dick Stoney conducted tours of the organ chambers. Dick and his crew did extensive work on the organ during the summer and it sounded much improved.

Sunday, October 14, was the day for another theatre organ double feature. In the morning, Tony Fenelon, a young man of tremendous talent from Australia was the concert artist at the Wiltern, and captivated his audience with his charming manner and his superb theatre organ stylings.

In the afternoon, more than 550

members and friends enjoyed a concert by Rex Koury at the fabulous San Sylmar, where Mr. J.B. Nethercutt houses his collection of classic cars, automatic musical instruments, Orchestrions and other assorted treasures. This concert proved to be so popular that two performances were scheduled during the afternoon to accommodate members and their friends. As a convenience, chartered buses were used to transport the concert-goers from the Wiltern to San Sylmar. San Sylmar is now completed and its beauty really defies description. As we entered, the first treat of the afternoon was the display of twenty-one classic cars in the gorgeous "Best of Show" salon, including a



Rex Koury played Widor's "Toccata" with the help of a computer. — (Stufoto)

Duesenberg, a Bugatti, an Auburn and a Cord, arranged between the marble columns and the giant wall mirror. On the mezzanine we viewed the large collection of radiator ornaments and the Louis XIV desks as we made our way to the "Stairway to the Stars" which leads to Cloud 99.

Upon reaching the exhilarating atmosphere of Cloud 99, a number of the large Orchestrions were heard with San Sylmar curator Roger Morrison at the controls. Mr. and Mrs. Nethercutt welcomed the ATOS members and then it was time for Rex Koury to open his concert with selections from



LA chapterites alight from a bus and enter the big bronze door which leads to the wonders of San Sylmar museum. — (Stufoto)

Oliver followed by several of the melodies written by the Carpenters. The dramatic highlight of the afternoon came when Rex left the console in the middle of the Widor "Toccata" — and the music continued — thanks to the digital computer which is an integral part of the organ. He had recorded the "Toccata" the day before and San Sylmar Entertainment Director Gordon Belt activated the computer at just the right moment to create this illusion which Rex termed "a non-partisan dirty trick." The 3/25 Wurlitzer sounded absolutely fabulous with the superb artistry of Rex Koury at the console. The audience descended from Cloud 99 by elevator to the parking level where a dozen Rolls Royces were on display. We are very grateful to Mr. Nethercutt for this memorable afternoon at San Sylmar, the outstanding event of the year for the Los Angeles Chapter.

Sixty-eight members were present at the Autumn General Business Meeting at the Elks building on October 15. The business portion of the meeting consisted of reports by the officers on the concerts at the Wiltern and other



Chairman Sam Dickerson. His buses ran on schedule. — (Stufoto)

activities during the year. Three members were elected to the nominating committee to provide chapter officers for 1974.

Following the business meeting, members enjoyed a slide show presented by Mr. Chuck Zimmerman, who has taken some excellent color photos of organ consoles and concert artists using available light. The open console period at the Robert Morton featured Seth Anderson, one of our "Stars of Tomorrow." Others who played during the refreshment period included Gerald Nagano, Fernand Martel, Andy Anderson and Walter Freed.



Bob Mitchell. — (Stufoto)

On Tuesday evening, October 23, the chapter, in conjunction with St. James Episcopal Church, presented something slightly different in organ concerts — Bob Mitchell and the Mitchell Singing Boys in a theatre organ concert at the church. The organ team of Les and Olive Pepiot had done extensive work on the 4/32 Kimball,

adjusting tremos, etc., and the organ had a full "theatre organ sound." Long time church, radio and theatre organist Bob Mitchell, (now organist and choir-master at the church) and the Singing Boys, provided a rich and varied program. An appreciative audience of more than 325 persons enjoyed this first venture by the chapter into a new concept in theatre organ concerts.

SAM DICKERSON

MOTOR CITY

Detroit's Redford Theatre was alive with activity on the evenings of September 17 and 18 when we presented organist Eddie Weaver in a public performance at the 3/10 Barton. In an effort to attract a maximum audience, two of Laurel and Hardy's finest, but seldom seen, silent two-reelers were shown, *The Second Hundred Years* and *With Love and Hisses*.

The double bill of two Laurel and Hardy films, combined with the magic of Eddie Weaver, paid off, for we experienced as large a house as we can remember at the Redford, and everyone went away with a smile. Whether it was Eddie Weaver or Laurel and Hardy that "hit the spot" is hard to tell, but Eddie Weaver is a top showman, and he certainly knows how to please an audience.

On Sunday, September 23, Motor City members traveled to Lansing, our state capitol, to hear Herb Head play the Michigan Theatre Barton organ. The program was sponsored by the Wolverine Chapter and attracted an especially large crowd for a Sunday morning, due in part to good advance publicity, especially television coverage, of the event.

Motor City member Frank Rossi was the artist for our chapter meeting on Sunday morning, September 30, at the Royal Oak Theatre. As part of his program, which included music primarily from the 30's and 40's, Frank entertained us with some 15 of the 30-odd pieces he knows with the word "moon" in the title. In addition to such selections as a medley from *An American in Paris* and "The Ritual Fire Dance", he made good use of the Royal Oak's new marimba for a rhythmic accompaniment to "In The Still of the Night."

Gaylord Carter was our artist for a pre-Halloween show the evening of October 24 at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor. The film was Lon Chaney's *The Hunchback of Notre*

Dame and Gaylord's ideal accompaniment to the movie evoked perhaps more than the usual excitement for those who were attending this type of program for the first time. Hopefully we can create even more enthusiasm among the students as well as the residents of this university town.

Having produced an eight to sixteen page program, with paid advertising, to pass out at our recent public shows, we have found that with inexpensive offset printing and the volunteer effort of our members to collate and staple, we have cut the expense of having a printed program to almost nothing. Our audiences now have something to take home that gives them more information about the organ, the chapter, the film, the artist and some history of the theatre building.

Excitement continues to build in Detroit as plans are made for the 1974 Convention. We hope *you* are planning *now* to attend The Note-able Nineteenth in July.

DON LOCKWOOD

NORTH TEXAS

It seems like after the August meeting in Dallas, everybody ran into physical problems of one kind or another that sort of slowed our activities down to a real largo tempo. Pat Kohl, our program Chairman was ill for some time and also took another hard fall which didn't do his leg and ankle any good after that first one that put him on crutches. John Scott, our able legal advisor, also wound up in the hospital for surgery. He's back on his feet now and doing great. Add to that some illness, attacks of appendicitis leading to an appendectomy, and some other illnesses both minor and major, among the officers and members, and it's understandable

why a 33-member chapter hasn't been able to accomplish much for the past couple of months. But as we said in our last meeting announcement, don't look back. Let's look ahead.

We have a meeting scheduled at Casa Manana in Fort Worth for Nov. 11 which will be the first one exclusively for the chapter. The other Casa sessions have all admitted the public and were in the form of concerts, with no business meetings. This time we have the place to ourselves and have requested only members and bona-fide potential members to attend. The program will consist of cameo spots by members after a business meeting where the main matter is appointment of a nominating committee for next year's officers. It is the first time in a long time that we have had a real Theatre Organ buff type meeting.

Dan Bellomy, our young Casa Manana organist, has moved "up east" and is now performing for one of the "plug-in" builders. Let us know when you'll be in the area, Dan, and we'll schedule some of your great playing for that Casa Wurlitzer again. We're sure sorry that the season had to be cut last summer because of Casa's internal problems, but currently everything is back on the track again and the coming winter season plus the 1974 summer season look like they'll be really great and swell. (Hey, those are organ manuals, not adjectives!)

The annual Christmas affair will again be a gala function, including election of officers as well as the Christmas party. In our new By-Laws the new officers, elected at the Christmas session will actually take over at the February meeting, to give them a little orientation time.

We have also been working on our

IRS situation, although with our current treasury it hardly seems necessary. However, maybe one of these days we'll develop an adequate balance and will be glad we made the arrangements. We have applied for our IRS "membership number" and once we get that, will proceed with the rest of it. Currently we are certainly a "non-profit" organization, but maybe the new year's dues will ease the pain in that area somewhat. Hopefully, when all is complete, we may have something to report which will simplify things for a lot of the chapters, especially the smaller ones.

Plans are also moving for some exchange visits with the Tulsa and Wichita groups. The problem at both ends of the circuit seems to be that everybody's theatre organ installation is either being updated, swapped out for a larger instrument or the installation not yet completed. Once we get some installations working besides the Casa installation, we'll be in a better position to entertain visitors by having enough instruments to see to make an overnight trip worth while. And an overnight trip is necessary for the distances involved.

Despite the September slowdown, the North Texas Chapter is still plenty active and hoping to expand, install, and generally enjoy our interest in theatre organs.

JOE KOSKI

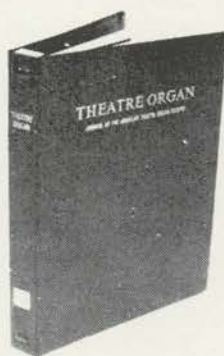
OREGON

The Oregon Chapter is pleased to announce that our chairman Dennis Hedberg, traded happy bachelorhood for wedded bliss on September 29th. The victorious bride is the former Margaret Dickson.

Dennis and Margaret were married in Portland's historic "Old Church". Jonas Nordwall played the 100 year old Hook and Hastings tracker organ for the ceremony. Bill Peterson and Les Lehne, chapter members, were among the ushers.

The wedding reception was held at the fabulous new "Organ Grinder" restaurant. Again Jonas Nordwall was at the organ, this time the 3/33 Wurlitzer. As those who attended the 1973 National Convention remember, this organ was one of the highlights of the convention. It was built by Dennis. During the reception the bridegroom also appeared at the console. While he played he was accompanied on the

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bench by his new bride.

Guests at this wedding had a rather unique experience. They had the pleasure of hearing Jonas play Oregon's oldest and newest pipe organs, both on the same afternoon.

The Oregon Chapter expresses much gratitude to the many people who have written, congratulating the chapter for the great 1973 convention. We are so pleased that they feel the convention was a success. Needless to say, we tried hard, it was a lot of work, but it was worth it!

DON INGRAM

POTOMAC VALLEY

It was a beautiful balmy September evening, a Tuesday. Members left work early, grabbed a quick bite of supper and headed for the Dick Kline home near Thurmont, Maryland. Everyone seemed to sense that this evening would be special. Over 250 Potomac Valley Chapter members were seated; some inside the exquisite Kline music room, and some outside the double doors on the deck by the lake.

One could easily have been quite content to just sit and bask in the beauty of our surroundings. (This must be Shangri-La!) But once Hector Olivera was introduced, all the rush to get to the meeting was forgotten and the promise of a memorable performance began to unfold into reality. From his first words and first note, Hector held his audience spellbound. His program was planned to have something for everyone, but as it turned out, every number was for everyone. Hector showed off the broad spectrum of the organs dynamic range, from the very softest to soaring, thrilling full organ. The registrations were imaginative and varied, the playing superb.

It was a perfect match; Hector's virtuosity and engaging personality



Artist, Hector Olivera, chapter chairman, Jean Lautzenheiser, and organ owner, Dick Kline. — (Roy Wagner Photo)



Suzette Olivera is counting "uno, dos, tres, five, fourteen". She helps her Daddy build his new pipe organ in a vacant house next door to their apartment. Suzette puts Hector's tools away for him. The pliers go in the refrigerator, the other pliers in the commode, a screwdriver inside an idle blower . . . ouch! — (Photo by Engle Associates)



SEASON'S GREETINGS
from your
South Florida Chapter

MERRY
CHRISTMAS



from
all the members
of
C.A.T.O.E.

plus Dick Kline's fabulous Wurlitzer. His skillful interweaving of classical and popular compositions was in evidence as he went from the "Toccata and Fugue in D Minor" to "Sunny" and back, with yet another classical passage from St. Anne's on the pedals. For comic relief "Popeye the Sailor Man" was given his lumps.

During the second half of the concert your correspondent went to the back of the audience to sense the atmosphere. Usually when people are in an area separated slightly from the artist, much chitchatting goes on; not this time, all ears and eyes were busily soaking up the sights and sounds to be stored in fond memories. You could have heard a pin drop. Truly, Hector is a musical genius; don't miss an opportunity to hear him.

Mrs. Olivera (Lucy) did not attend the concert. She remained at home in Pittsburgh, where she gave birth six days later to a son, Hector James. Little Hector joins Suzette, his three-year-old sister in the Olivera family.

We have been having one successful program after another this year and reached another pinnacle during our October meeting held at the Marietta Theatre in Marietta, Pennsylvania. We were there in force, having invited our neighboring chapters, Delaware Valley, West Penn and Garden State, to hear the incomparable Ashley Miller. They came from every direction by car and by bus.

The owners of the Marietta Theatre, Dave Kalmbach and Ray Cunningham, had worked hard at putting together all the details required for such a successful program. To begin with, the town itself lent an aura of quaintness wherein everyone seems to be working to preserve the old, rather than tear down and build anew. The theatre is claimed to be the oldest operating movie house in continuous use in the eastern part of the nation. It

is the 3/28 Page-Wurlitzer organ of which the owners are justifiably most proud.

In the afternoon, we were treated to cameo artists who demonstrated their capability with a variety of musical fare. Glenn Hough and Ed Weimer, resident organists of the Marietta, each took a turn followed by West Penn's Rey Galbraith, Delaware Valley's Lee Bounds (representing the distaff side) and "Jose" Fernandez and our own, well known, Dick Kline.

As a "Teaser", Chapter Chairman, Jean Lautzenheiser, then introduced our guest, Ashley Miller, who gave us an inkling of what was in store for us with his renditions of "Put On A Happy Face", "Autumn Leaves" and "Of Thee I Sing". After his teaser, Ashley was interviewed on the bench by Jean and brought us up to date on his career, his wife, Jo, and children.

Currently playing the CBS show, *Search for Tomorrow* six days a week, he finds time on Sunday for his position as organist for the Society for Ethical Culture.

In his "spare time" he is available for concertizing, a fact which I'm sure all chapters will note. Ashley is "Hooked on theatre organ" and wants



"A hard working pair of happy theatre and theatre organ owners, Ray Cunningham and Dave Kalmbach." - (Photo by Roy Wagner)



"Ashley Miller at the console of the Marietta Page-Wurlitzer." - (Photo by Roy Wagner)

to play more of it. He has seen the reawakening of interest in it and his talent will most certainly broaden its scope.

And so, "Put On A Happy Face", we did, as we tramped through town to dinner at Ye Old Railroad house where we dined amidst surroundings which took us all back to bygone days.

On our return, we were treated to Ashley accompanying the silent movie, *Peck's Bad Boy*, and then his concert, which certainly demonstrated the talent of this master of the organ. His selections, arrangements and registration left no room for anything but praise from his audience.

The day was capped with hilarity in the form of a Mae West movie, *I'm No Angel*.

Our chapter wishes to thank Ashley for his wonderful artistry and friendliness; Dave Kalmbach and Ray Cunningham for all their work and preparation; and our own Al Baldino for making all the very necessary



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ROY WAGNER

PUGET SOUND

September 9 was Bellingham/Vancouver day for the Puget Sound Chapter. Many members made the two-hour drive north from Seattle to hear a well-received concert by chapter member Dick Schrum. Dick played on the Style 215 Wurlitzer (2 manuals and 10 ranks) installed in the Mt. Baker Theatre.

This theatre and its Wurlitzer are in immaculate condition. The theatre's manager, Mr. Roy Kastner, has seen to it that the organ is used as much as possible and is very cordial in allowing local buffs a chance to try out the instrument when traveling through Bellingham. A plaque was presented to Mr. Kastner at this meeting for his devoted service to this theatre and the Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ. Members Dick Warburton and "Buck" Strickland must also be complemented – they service and tune the organ.

The outing continued by travelling further north to Vancouver, British Columbia, to hear the great organ in the Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral.



Mr. Roy Kastner, second from left, receives plaque from Puget Sound Chapter honoring his dedication to the theatre pipe organ. From left – "Buck" Strickland, Mr. Kastner, Dick Warburton, and Russ Evans. "Buck" and Dick maintain the organ. Russ organized the event.

Guest organist for this event was Mr. Donald Stagg. Mr. G. Herald Keefer, organist and choirmaster of the Cathedral, and also the rebuilder of the great organ demonstrated some of the various stops of this magnificent instrument.

Mr. Keefer also explained the rich history of this organ which started out as a two-manual tracker built by the Warren Company, a Canadian pipe organ builder. Mr. Keefer's firm rebuilt

the action into all-electric and added a new three-manual console as well as some new pipework to create this 54 rank instrument.

October 7 saw the group in Olympia to hear Andy Crow (fresh from his 1973 Portland Convention appearance) present an outstanding concert on the Wurlitzer organ in the Olympic Theatre. Andy has kept this fine theatre and organ in great shape. An unusual feature here is that the cham-

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bers are over the proscenium arch for the 2-manual, 10-rank Style F Special (Opus 858). Andy is currently sharing the console with Jonas Nordwall at Portland's Organ Grinder Restaurant.

The members enjoyed dinner at an Olympia eatery where a short business meeting was conducted. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Erma Gain, and assisted by Dick Change and Howard Wells, brought forth their selections for the 1974 officers. Their recommendations were: Chairman, Genny Whitting; Vice Chairman, Mahon Tullis; and Board Members Bill Carson and Mark Cockrill. This slate was accepted. Many members then went to the residence of Tom and Fran Solberg to hear and play their newly-installed 2/9 Wurlitzer/Morton. This is the former Centraila, Washington Fox Theatre organ. Tom and Fran built their new home around the organ and are to be complimented on their fine sounding installation.

A few members were fortunate enough to be able to see and play the 2-manual TRACKER pipe organ owned by Vi and Morry Waldron. This organ is installed in their living room and is a classic example of the forerunner of the theatre pipe organ.

The weekend of October 12 and 13 was certainly ORGANized in Seattle. Friday night, October 12, Virgil Fox



Newly-elected Chairman Genny Whitting at the console of her Robert Morton theatre pipe organ.

made a Seattle appearance with his "Heavy Organ" and "Revelation Lights". On both Friday and Saturday evenings, popular Seattle organist Dick Kimball presided over the Granada Theatre's 4/32 Wurlitzer to the delight of many ATOS'ers.

We are looking forward to the near future opening of Seattle's version of the Capn's Galley Pizza Restaurants, courtesy of Mr. Bill Breuer. The organ chosen is a Balaban 3 Model Wurlitzer

(descendant of the Style 260) Opus 2121 from the Paramount Theatre in Salem, Mass. The organ is currently being rebuilt for installation.

TERRY HOCHMUTH

SOUTHERN ARIZONA

The chapter opened its winter season at the new home of our chairman, Lois Seamands and husband, Larry, on Sunday, October 7, 1973. Approximately 60 people attended with 27 being guests. Out of our 35 family memberships, 17 persons attended the 18th Annual ATOS convention in Portland. We wish to give a special "Hello" to George and Oliva Wilson in East Point, Georgia and, and Earl and Margaret Winters of Bremerton, Washington.

After the business meeting our program was opened by Art Crowell, who played "Swanee". He then introduced three of his pupils, Miss Lynn Staininger, 11 years old; Miss Karen Lund, 12 years; and Janice Owens, 16 years. The three guests performed for us, playing numbers both classical and popular. Each displayed good musicianship and they were well received. Since one of our aims is the leading of the younger musician into the knowledge and love of the theatre organ field, we in SATOS feel fortunate in having these three young ladies as

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Steve Fitzgerald, Albert Coombs and George Baird remove Wurlitzer 260 console from Guzman Hall for renovating - (Gerhart Photo)



South Florida Chairman Steve Fitzgerald and Albert Coombs move the former Olympia Theatre Wurlitzer for refurbishing - (Gerhart Photo)

guest entertainers and hopefully soon members of ATOS.

Ralph Cloos opened the open console segment of our program with the "Theme From The Summer of '42" followed by a few of his very swinging theatre organ style numbers which he does so well. Having been a music educator, teacher and entertainer, Ralph also plays 'pipes' in church as well as doing popular style and doesn't make one style sound like the other,

to the detriment of either. He is his "own man."

Our newest member, Ray Gard played next, followed by many others. After a buffet lunch, more music and conversation followed. Our hostess' Conn model 650 with Leslie 600 tone cabinet and Conn pipe speakers never sounded better and more pipe-like than it did, feeding into the high ceilinged music room which allowed the music to expand. BOB HIGH

SOUTH FLORIDA

The removal of the Wurlitzer 260 console from Guzman Hall (former Olympia Theatre) in downtown Miami took place on September 29th, 1973, which happened to be a Saturday morning. Via rental truck, the console was swept away to suburban Hialeah and storage in a garage. This location will provide easier access for complete restoration before replacing in the theatre.



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Guzman Hall Miami Philharmonic authorities are most insistant that this organ project be carried out to completion. Initially, tables were turned, i.e., the Philharmonic was too busy getting organized in their new home to be concerned over the stagnant music machine hidden somewhere in their midst. Time has now reached sufficient depths that they can consider their inherited orphan and have formally requested that SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER, ATOS "do whatever is necessary" to restore the aged Wurlitzer completely. This is being done through conscientiously aggressive efforts of Steve Fitzgerald, Chapter Chairman.

The console saw its first light of day in almost 48 years. As Opus No. 1198 this instrument was shipped from North Tonowanda on November 6, 1925 and was installed for the Olympia's opening night *February 18, 1926*. (Olympia feature article appeared in *TO/Bombarde*, April 1967.)


G. W. GERHART

WESTERN RESERVE

Dr. Robert J. Bray, an active member of W.R.T.O.S., was the guest artist at our September meeting which was held in our downtown Cleveland Masonic Auditorium where Dr. Bray is the official organist. An optometrist

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by profession, Dr. Bray is also organist at the Parma-South Presbyterian Church in Parma Heights. He is deeply involved in organ music as an avocation, with ties especially to the "Romantic" school.

The 4/40 Austin (1918 vintage) played by Dr. Bray was designed to be

a concert, or recital organ, for orchestral transcriptions. There are no Tibias and the tremulants are slow - therefore no theatrical effect. Appropriately, Dr. Bray played the "Poet and Peasant Overture", "Voices of Spring" and "Crown Imperial" by William Walton.

We continue to attract new adherents to organ music. At a cultural fair sponsored October 14 by the Euclid, Ohio Art Guild, organ pageantry was possible with only 12 feet of booth space. A group headed by Howard Kast had arranged for musical majesty by piping tape recorded excerpts of theatre organ music throughout the auditorium. A Bladwin spinet plug-in, courtesy of Bob Brenner Music Studio, was made available for our members to play during the duration of the "Fair." Notable, too, was our display of 100 colored photographs of the Akron Civic Theatre Wurlitzer, the Gray's Armory 3/13 Wurlitzer and the Lorain Palace 3/11 Wurlitzer . . . the latter which we happily credit Fred Carson, for initiating restoration efforts.

Two "plus" highlights of our presentation were an exact 1/3 scale model of a Wurlitzer style 240 console which Howard Kast devotedly built over many hours, and a small working model wind chest, with a Doppel Flute, which passers-by could play

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On Sunday, October 21, W.R.T.O.S. met at Ruth and Milo Swanson's home to hear their fine 2/7 Barton (1928) which they obtained from the Lloyd's Theatre in Menominee, Michigan during 1967. With much energy and care, Ruth and Milo stripped their 2/7 Barton down through several layers of age to its original mahogany finish. Now refinished, and in mint condition, it was played that afternoon by Ken Demko,

our "Mr. Magic", who knows where to find tunes for everyone's pleasure.

October stayed awhile for the Western reserve... and on the 27th we went for a visit "Down Memory Lane" with "Cran" Hendershott as our eloquent guide. We travelled lightly, and unpacking was a snap as our suitcases were filled only with nostalgia and enthusiasm for the older rhythms; the TV and Radio anecdotes of another era; the songs of a time when travelling was by train; the sound track melodies of

the epic-type movies, no longer produced; the sing-alongs when people weren't afraid to share themselves; and the classics — complex and beautiful.

The silent movie was a comic one, *Her Bridal Nightmare* (1927) with Colleen Moore, Helen Darling, Earl Rodney and Eddy Barry. "Cran" truly took us on an enjoyable trip and aptly dropped us off home with an encore song memento, "Memory Lane", of course!

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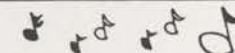
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