

Among these were the Marimba, Xylophone, Harmonic Gongs, Chrysoglott, Sleigh Bells, and Chimes. His rectangular chromatic Saucer Bells were placed in the Ocean Grove organ. They continue to ring as long as keys are held down. His most unusual experimental Percussion was the Hedeia-phon. It consisted of small gongs that vibrated continuously as long as jets of wind from the chest were released by keys. Other stops we haven't discussed were his Viol d'Amour (as he spelled it), Claribel, Unda Maris Sourdine (Muted Viol), Zauberflote, Piccolo, Harmonic Piccolo, Bourdon, Geigen Principal, Echo Salicional, Vox Angelica, and Quintadena.

How can this Michelangelo in Sound be said to have failed? He obviously didn't. It should be said that the financial balance sheet was not one of his stronger points. One of his associates told this writer that author Mark Twain once made a one-hundred thousand dollars investment in the Elmira factory. Others contributed also to his factory and supplied numerous pay envelopes. Yet the factory faced bankruptcy. No doubt his individual style of thinking made him a lonely man, in spite of the efforts of his wife, Cecile Laurence Hope-Jones, who went around covering up his eccentricities and helping out on his projects, not to mention his brothers, who never lost faith in him. A witness has said that Hope-Jones had a pleasant manner, as when explaining the many new stops in his famous Ocean Grove organ, which he loved to do after recitals. Organist Stuart Barrie described him as "intensely interesting, soft-spoken."

But one that is so much in the realms of euphoria must sometimes swing the emotional pendulum in the other direction. Tragically, he ended his life in a gloomy old rooming house. His suicide came in 1914, just before the explosion of theatre organs all over this country and England. But probably he had invented all of the electrical adjuncts to the organ that were needed in his day, most of them before 1900. Certainly he had created a complete catalogue of stops. He probably felt that there was little else for him to accomplish. We cannot understand this genius in tone because we do not think as he did, but we can give him a belated thanks for giving us the machinery and sounds of the theatre organ. □



Don Thompson addresses audience at New Mexico concert.

Showtime In New Mexico

The Showtime on the Mighty Theatre Organ series on the first Thursday in February at New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, New Mexico, presented versatile organist Don Thompson, who performed before the largest crowd yet to fill Roswell's Pearson Auditorium. The show was the fourth of the New Mexico Military Institute's Cadet Activities Forum sponsored series on the Institute's 3/14 Hillgreen-Lane theatre organ.

Thompson used the Hillgreen to take some 900 concert goers on a musical tour of the world.

Two silent classics, Barney Oldfield's *A Race for A Life* and Buster Keaton's *Cops*, rounded out the evening's three-hour program, which was characterized by an enthusiasm for the show that infected every element of the diverse audience.

Thompson is one of those organists who can claim world-wide fame; he has appeared in twenty countries in concert, cabaret, vaudeville, television

and radio performances.

As previously reported in *THEATRE ORGAN*, subsequent to an initial period of infrequent use, neglect became a factor in the fate of the organ. During the early 60's the organ was completely silent.

Cadet Robert MacNeur came to the Institute in the summer of '71, and began reconstruction of the instrument. With the help of Mr. Wilson, Mr. Jesse Reed, and fellow cadets Dennis Alley and Stanley Gantz, Bob was able to have the organ operable for the talent show of that same year. Recently, new parts have been added and old parts repaired; the Hillgreen is finally alive again. Bob has come a long way with the organ; all his talent and devoted time has been put into the organ during the past two years.

The final concert of the '73-74 series is to be held on April 9 when Gaylord Carter will be featured at the console. □

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