

Moon River Organ Travels Again

by Carroll Harris

The December, 1973 issue of THE-ATRE ORGAN carried a Lloyd E. Klos article, "Theatre Organists on Radio," in which he mentioned WLW, Cincinnati, Ohio, their three Wurlitzer theatre pipe organs and the long running *Moon River* program. Only one of these three Wurlitzers was designated "The Moon River Organ", and Charles Evans of Dallas, Texas has a letter to prove it. Charles Evans purchased the organ and installed it in his home, adding a piano in a rather unusual case. On January 11, 1974 Evans sold the 3/17 with piano to Lawrence E. Weid of Sacramento.

Lawrence Weid is vice chairman/treasurer of the Sierra Chapter. To say he is a pipe organ enthusiast is putting it mildly. His present Sacramento home now contains a beautiful 2/7 Wurlitzer, complete with Glockenspiel and xylophone. The Wurlitzer is Opus 939 and was formerly installed in the Palace Theatre in San Leandro, California. The installation is well planned. The console has been beautifully finished in antique white and gold leaf. The "works" are installed in what was meant to be a two car garage.

On February 15, Larry and three other Sacramento organ buffs left for Dallas to remove the 3/17 and piano from the Evans' home. Plans are not complete for one of radio's more famous organs when it arrives on the West Coast. Larry is certain the visible portions of the instrument will be refinished. This means a complete redoing of the console and piano. He is ready to augment the pipework with a least one more rank. Where it will go is open for discussion. His present home can't hold it without a major remodeling. Construction of a new home and installation therein is dependent upon building code variations. One thing is certain — "The Moon River Organ" will have a new home in Sacramento, California. □



The console of "The Moon River Organ" as it was installed in the Charles Evans home, Dallas, Texas. — (Weid/Baxter Photo)

Charles Evans added this beautifully encased piano to "The Moon River" Wurlitzer. — (Weid/Baxter Photo)

