

cini's scores of "Peter Gunn" and "Mr. Lucky", Irving Berlin and "Duke" Ellington, and others.

Another fine dealer with whom I have done a lot of business is Mr. Tom Radcliffe of 210 Ocean Avenue, Ocean City, New Jersey. At one time Mr. Radcliffe had many of his show tunes and glossy prints from the old shows mounted on cardboard that could be displayed on peg boards on stands. These displays attracted wide attention at various malls and I had the pleasure of playing organs in conjunction with the show, filling requests of the songs displayed. Incidentally, the most requested number was "Mandy" from *The Ziegfeld Follies*, don't ask me what year! We were in New Rochelle, New York for a week, Huntington, Long Island and nearby Moorestown, New Jersey. It was while playing old tunes here that a lovely young girl requested "TipToe Through the Tulips" many times as she was an ardent admirer of Tiny Tim. It was no surprise to me to learn a little later that she was Miss Vickey who later became Mrs. Tiny Tim.

Mr. Radcliffe was selling his numbers at \$2.00 a copy, the last I wrote him. Usually a small postage charge is due on these numbers.

Some of my friends have found some wonderful old music, in their own neighborhood, on a trash box, waiting to be carried away to the dump. Another friend recently took a bus trip to New Hope, Pennsylvania. This colorful town is in the heart of Bucks County, the home of many show people, retired actors, artists, etc. Many European show folk retire here. My friend was browsing through an antique shop where she found a lot of old music. As she joined her group at the restaurant, owned by that once great French actress, Odette Mytel, she was ecstatic about her bargain, saying, "I got all of this for \$5.00 and I could have had lots more if I could have carried them." I am still hunting certain numbers and I suppose you are, too. If you are interested, contact these dealers and get on the mailing lists. What a thrill it is, when the postman delivers your package of music, to tear off the wrappings and try it over and over. You will be on Cloud Nine all day with your find.

Recently in our attic I found an old out-of-print overture book. I was horrified to see the name of Ace Pancoast on it. I worked with Ace, a fine fellow

and an excellent organist, many years ago in the theatres. I located Ace at a concert and returned the book with a thousand apologies, saying "I'm dreadfully sorry, Ace, but I don't usually keep borrowed music this long!" Only about 30 years!

If you have any questions, drop me a line at 17 West Browning Road, Collingswood, N.J. 08108. Who knows, I may be in the old music business myself one of these days. □

Potomac Valley Member Has Prestige Job

The American Film Institute Theatre located in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C., the National Cultural Center, has as its organist and musical consultant, Potomac Valley Chapter ATOS member Ray Brubacher. Ray is at the console of the Rodgers Theatre Organ to accompany all silent films presented by the A.F.I. □



ALABAMA

The Alabama Chapter was represented at the National Convention this year by Chapter Chairman Riedel West, Dr. and Mrs. Cecil Prescott, Ralph and Jim Ferguson and Alleen Cole. We had a ball and we were impressed with the tremendous job the

Motor City Chapter did in handling the mountains of details such a convention entails.

The convention ended rather abruptly for this correspondent. I received word of my husband's heart attack and I had to rush off — sort of "in the heat of the day without my



Alabama Chapter presents brother and sister act with presentation of Cathy and Tom Helms during July meeting at Alabama Theatre 4/20 Wurlitzer. (Thomas L. Hatter Photo)

blanket." I'll take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help and the good wishes sent our way. I'm happy to report Don is improving and is already planning a trip to San Francisco next year!

In July, a program was presented by Tom Helms, a 20 year-old from Pensacola, Florida. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. T.F. Helms, Sr., started him on his musical education at the age of 6, but as youngsters will do, he gave up music and didn't begin again until 1972. He is presently studying organ at the University of Alabama. He is house organist for the Saenger Theatre in Pensacola and serves as director of music and organist for the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Tuscaloosa.

It is amazing how beautifully Tom handled the big 4/20 Wurlitzer at the Alabama with very effective registrations and a good selection that included "oldies", pop-tunes, ballads, classicals, show music and a march.

About half-way through his program, a new sound came through, like a Vox Humana. But no, it was the voice of his sister, Cathy. She went over big with the audience as she joined Tom in several numbers.

For the August meeting, we quote member Riedel West, who says: "Atlanta may never be the same again!" On August 11, members of the Alabama Chapter "invaded" Atlanta for a joint meeting with the Southeastern Chapter at the Fox Theatre. They were surprised by the appearance of Lee Erwin at the console of the "Mighty Mo." As a special treat, Mr. Erwin played many selections from his new Angel recordings of Scott Joplin's ragtime and some of his own scores from "Sound of Silents." Mr. Erwin is really a master at the theatre organ.

We are grateful to Joe Patten and Bob VanCamp for arranging this visit. Everyone who can, should try to get to Atlanta. This group is working hard to try to save the Fox Theatre. We hope that our chapter visit helped to show that this magnificent theatre and organ should remain a part of Atlanta.

ALLEEN COLE

BEEHIVE

Pipes and Pancakes!!!

On June 2, members of the Beehive Chapter and their guests enjoyed a pancake, bacon and egg breakfast meeting at The Organ Loft.

The breakfast was prepared by

Wayne V. Russell, his son Harold, and Miss Jody Jensen.

After a brief meeting, those attending the meeting were invited to play the giant Wurlitzer. The members of the chapter would like to thank Mr. Lawrence Bray for this opportunity and also for the use of his kitchen facilities.

MAXINE V. RUSSELL

A glimpse of San Francisco . . .



See it all at . . .

**ATOS CONVENTION
July 15-20, 1975**

CENTRAL INDIANA

"Jam session" doesn't usually describe a normal ATOS meeting, however, the June meeting of CIC-ATOS might well be called just that. About 80 members gathered at the lovely home of Virginia (Byrd) and

Steve Rechteris in Indianapolis for an interesting variety of music, and not all organ. The first and more serious portion of the program was presented by Bernice Fraction, well known coloratura soprano from Indianapolis. Her program included operatic, secular and classical numbers. Her charm, talent and versatility were a delight to everyone. The group then moved to the downstairs recreation room for the second part of the program presented by several well known Indianapolis personalities.

Johnny Winn, guitarist and banjoist, whose famed Johnny Winn Trio performed in the 40's and 50's on radio and television in Indianapolis, started the program with a group of selections from that period. A "new" Johnny Winn Trio suddenly sprang into being, complete with vocalist, when Jack Murray (a member of the original trio), and our hostess, Virginia, joined Johnny at the Hammond organ and piano respectively. Jack has been an organist around town for a number of years, is well known in teaching circles and as the owner of a music store, and for many years has played in a number of restaurants around town. Jack and Virginia each performed several organ solos. Virginia has been a well known figure in musical circles in Indianapolis for many years, doing theatre organ, TV and radio work and presently is organist-director of Chapel Door on WISH-TV.

It was a lovely setting for an early June meeting and we do thank the Rechterises for their hospitality.

The Embassy Theatre in Fort Wayne was the location of our July meeting which turned out to be a weekend affair. Some 25 to 30 members arrived around noon on Saturday. After a tour of the theatre, several hours of open console time gave everyone a chance to play the beautiful 4/14 Page.

A tour was made of several downtown Fort Wayne installations. The first was the Scottish Rite Auditorium which has a lovely, but small, 2/6 Wicks. This was played in the usual good styling of Tim Needler so we could hear the beautiful tone of this interesting installation.

We then went to Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church where Richard A. Carlson, organist-choir-master, explained the chamber locations and stops of the 4/91 Aeolian-Skinner organ. He played a short

program to exploit to the fullest this magnificent instrument. Trinity also has a lovely pipe organ in the chapel which Mr. Carlson played for us.

The third stop on our afternoon tour was Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. We did not have an opportunity to hear the organ here due to the illness of the organist, however, we did have an interesting tour of the church and an explanation of its historical background. Our thanks to Bob Nickerson for arranging and conducting this tour.

After dinner Saturday evening we were delightfully entertained by a number of members in the home of Byron Fotz who has an excellent 3/8 Barton.

Last on our "tour of home installations" was the beautiful country home of Ray and Dorothy Danford. We especially thank them for their hospitality, for they returned from their cottage so we might see, hear and play their 2/8 Wurlitzer, and the Gulbranson electronic. The Danford's are members of the Motor City Chapter in Detroit but reside in Fort Wayne.

Sunday morning took us back to the Embassy Theatre and the 4/14 Page where we were entertained by Buddy Nolan. It was a real treat to hear Buddy again since the theatre has not been available for concerts for quite some time.

A bit of historical background about the Embassy is in order here. Over the past 15 years a small group of people, primarily interested in the preservation of the Page pipe organ in the Embassy Theatre, and in the playing of the instrument, have met on Saturday mornings to enjoy it. Over the years, lack of maintenance by the owners of the building required this group to occasionally repair the roof, replace light bulbs, repair leaks, etc. to keep the building from deteriorating, and ultimately damaging the organ.

When it became known that the company owning the building was in bankruptcy and that an out of the city group intended to acquire it, and perhaps demolish it for parking, the group decided to try to rescue it. After a number of legal points were resolved, the court, in the interest of conserving this site, agreed to lease it on a month to month basis to the group which has since become the Embassy Theatre Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit foundation, formed solely to acquire

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this building and to restore it to its original condition and grandeur.

The Foundation feels strongly that a 2,800 seat auditorium with excellent acoustics and typical of a past era — unable to be reproduced at this time at any cost — should be preserved and restored as a place available to the general public for road shows, recitals, ballet presentations, philharmonic concerts, special movie productions, old time movies with organ accompaniment, exhibits, etc. The rentals charged, or admissions received, should go a long way toward the actual maintenance, as long as the building is tax exempt, and the income to the Foundation also tax exempt.

More of these landmarks should be preserved. They belong to an era that deserves as much recognition as the architectural beauty of any historic creation of other centuries. To tear them down, as so many have already been demolished, is a crime against historical culture. We commend this Foundation for true devotion to this cause.

After our sojourn at the Embassy we made one last stop at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne where we saw and heard a most unusual pipe organ installation. The organ is a 3 manual Wicks and has 2 consoles. One is located in the lower main sanctuary, the other in the balcony. Either can be

played from the same installation of pipes, but they cannot be played simultaneously. No formal program was given here, but several members played so we might hear the organ.

It was time now to return to the Embassy and use the remainder of the afternoon for open console time. Tours of the theatre for interested local people were being conducted throughout the weekend and the live organ music lent a great deal of atmosphere and transmitted the feeling that this mighty instrument and the theatre of another era really belonged together. We hope it is a convincing factor that will ultimately lead to its restoration as a community and civic endeavor.

The August meeting was almost a repeat performance of last years meeting. This meeting is anticipated with great delight because of the dual attraction at the lovely home of Dave and Betty Roch in suburban Indianapolis. Inside is the marvelous 2/7 Geneva which was originally installed in the Ritz Theatre in Indianapolis. This is a beautiful little organ and Dave had it in top condition. In the living room is a lovely grand, allowing piano and organ duos, and in the den there is a player piano for those who are musicians of another type!! The organ incidentally has its own room. That's the "inside" story.

Now for the other half of the story — outside is a lovely swimming pool which attracts both organ-playing members and those who come just to listen. The business meeting was short and no formal program was planned so there would be ample time for everyone to play and still time for a swim as well.

Our thanks to Dave and Betty for their hospitality and to Ruth Hawkins who so faithfully provides refreshments each month. Bob Cox served as co-host with the Rochs.

Since CIC-ATOS had over 20 members attending the Convention, the August meeting was an opportune time to relive the exciting events of a really superb convention, exchange pictures, and generally talk about plans to attend next year's convention.

I'd like to add here that we want to compliment our own Dennis and Heidi James for a superb performance in the opening concert at the Senate Theatre. We are extremely proud of them and their continuing success in concerts everywhere.



Chris Phillips, age 12, at the Conn 651 during the chapter's August meeting.

Also representing our chapter was John Landon whose presentation on Jesse Crawford was very well attended. This two-hour spectacular of sound and film slides gave a fine insight into the man and his music.

Among our other members actively engaged in musical endeavors during the summer are Ken Double and Tom Hawkins. Ken is staff organist and musical director for the Tommy Bartlett Water Show at the Wisconsin Dells. This is Ken's fourth year and he does a beautiful job with the show.

Tom Hawkins has been playing a 30-minute program each evening, Monday through Friday from 6:30-7:00 on FM Radio Station WSMJ, Indianapolis and also played at the Hancock County Fair.

From all indications the fall season coming up is going to be equally as busy. We now have 105 family memberships and continue to grow in numbers and enthusiasm.

RUTH D. WARD

CENTRAL OHIO

Our members who attended the National Convention thank the Motor City Chapter for their efforts in providing such a great convention. Motor City members are to be commended for their personal help to individuals needing personal assistance. It can't be said too often — what great people we have in ATOS — and when we lose members it is an acute loss, such as our friend Al Mason.

An outstanding meeting for us was our annual picnic in August. Hosted by Frances and Dr. Willard Fine at the

party house at their condominium complex, the meeting was complete with the use of the swimming pool and a Conn 651 furnished for our use by Durthaler Organ Company of Columbus. The piece de re-sis-tance was having Heidi and Dennis James as guests.

Dr. Fine played the opening concert followed by Chris Phillips of Dayton. Many members shared their musical talent with us and credit goes to Kenny Winland, who understandably, reluctantly followed Dennis James.

Special credit goes to Betsy Richards who played despite the fact she is recovering from a broken foot.

The organ was at its best with the cathedral ceiling, wood floor and the speakers and Conn pipes mounted in the rafters.

Betsy Richards played the Robert Morton at the Ohio Theatre for the summer dollar movie series along with another newcomer, Bill Clausen. Other

performers at the Ohio were Frank Babbitt, Tom Hamilton and Mike Williams.

IRENE BLEGEN

CHICAGO AREA

During the summer almost fifty CATOE members were in Detroit to share the excitement of the Noteable Nineteenth national convention. This included a whole busload of CATOEs who made the trip aboard a Greyhound which bus coordinator Ione Tedei had equipped with a "mighty" Estey pump organ, which was also used to play "Chicago" from the ballroom balcony during the roll call of chapters.

The CATOE board has been inspecting hotels for our turn as host in 1977. We expect at least 1500 and want a hotel capable of handling a crowd that size. Members with home installations were so impressed with those in Detroit that they are renewing efforts to improve and install home installations here.

On August 24, John Koch, Joan Geyer and crew hosted a preview social meeting to hear their project, a 3/10 Barton in Waukeagan's Genessee Theatre. Millard Heyman, who was the last regular house organist there, was at the console. The organ still needs work before its debut in front of the public during a CATOE concert, but the 75 members and guests recognized that it will be another good, sweet sounding Barton when finished.

Newly-elected national director and CATOE Secretary Bill Rieger was among members who were present on September 1 to hear young Walt Strojny represent CATOE during the cameo appearances at the Atlanta Fox Theatre.



Some of the CATOE members who rode an organ-equipped Greyhound to Detroit to enjoy the convention banquet there in July. (Carl Anderson Photo)



Official ATOS photographer and CATOE member Bill Lamb discusses 1977 Chicago convention plans with VOX CATOE editor Richard Sklenar. (Carl Anderson Photo)

The CATOE produced film "When So Few Actually Play" was debuted during a September 21 concert by Jim Roseveare. It tells the story of how CATOE moved the Downers Grove Wurlitzer and 16 mm sound prints are now available for chapter rental.

October 18 and 19 Bob Coe will be at the Arcada Theatre, St. Charles, Ill. for two nights of "Vaudeville Tonight" both of which will feature the 3/16 Geneva. Work is also continuing at the Chicago Theatre for a CATOE presentation there in the near future.

RICHARD J. SKLENAR

CONNECTICUT VALLEY

Our August 10th meeting was held at Melody Hill, the aptly named residence of Stillman and Claire Rice in North Haven, Ct. The beautiful 3-manual Allen organ inside the house was ringing the hill with melody all afternoon as chapter members and

guests enjoyed open console. We were favored with perfect weather, so windows and doors could be open; also, suitable loudspeakers were located on the grounds so that both the music and the business discussions were audible most enywhere.

Stillman had made available charcoal broilers for those who brought food to cook and a good number of us made excellent use of them.

After the dinner hour the usual business items were reviewed and discussed. An item well received was Eddie Weaver's scheduled appearance at the Thomaston Opera House September 20 and 21 to play concerts for the benefit of the Rice Memorial.

Chairman Colton advised that our members in Western Massachusetts who had petitioned for a charter were granted permission by the national officers to form a chapter. They have been active in maintaining and restoring organs in the Greenfield and Springfield areas and we wish them well in continuing their good efforts under their immediate leadership.

The final item of this portion of the meeting was Norman Ray's presentation to Stillman Rice, who was not able to attend the National convention in Detroit, the plaque awarded him there as a past National President by the National Board of Directors. Stillman was most grateful and assured all present that the plaque will occupy a place of prominence among his effects.

Concert time featured offerings by two excellent performers, Tim Storrs, professional, and Kathy Roberg, award-winning amateur. Tim Storrs, who is associated professionally with a music company in Hartford, played the first part of the program, opening with *Sweet Gypsy Rose* and continuing with *Love is Blue* followed by music from motion pictures, both old

and recent. Then Kathy Roberg played two of her own arrangements of medleys of tunes from the musical stage, including selections from *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Funny Girl*. Then Tim Storrs continued with additional popular tunes of past and present, closing with music from Oklahoma.

We heartily thank the Rices for providing such comfortable and hospitable surroundings which made the meeting a very pleasant one.

W.F. POWERS, JR.

LOS ANGELES

The Los Angeles chapter did not take a recess this summer. The July Wiltern concert featured Gaylord Carter. His playing and showmanship were superlative, as usual. Much of the program was a tribute to silent motion pictures, and he played excerpts from the scores of several classics. These included Chaplin in *The Gold Rush*, in which a desperate Chaplin attempts to eat a boiled shoe, and spends several frantic minutes inside a house teetering on the edge of a cliff. A novel feature of his concert was the demonstration, a first I believe, of how *not* to play a silent movie. He took the scene from *Phantom of the Opera* in which Lon Chaney is unmasked and used the most incredible and funny contemporary lyrics instead of the original score, which he played later. I am not going to tell what he did play, because that would spoil the act, which you must see when he comes to your town.

We are fortunate in having several large theatre organs at our disposal. Although our monthly concerts have usually been played on the Wiltern 4/37 Kimball, there has been recent interest in concerts at other organs in and around Los Angeles. The August concert featured Don Thompson at



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the style 260 Wurlitzer installed in the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium. This organ was originally in the RKO Albee Theatre in Brooklyn, and was secured and brought to Los Angeles as a labor of love by one of our members, Neal Kissell.

The Thompson concert was warmly received. His selections included a medley of Judy Garland favorites, *Puttin on the Ritz*, and the Bach *Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor*. He also presented the Billy Nalle composition, *Trio*.

The second in our series of organ crawls, conceived and carried out by chairman Ray Bonner, was a bus trip to San Diego. Our members were treated on the way by hearing Don Thompson play the 3/16 Style 260 Wurlitzer installed at the Sandy Fleet residence in Rancho Santa Fe (see article in the August THEATRE ORGAN by Stu Green). Don played several selections for the members and guests, and the three buses then headed for the Sheraton Inn at Harbor Island in San Diego. Then an excursion to Sea World, "Old-town," and Tijuana (couldn't find any theatre organs there) before assembling for a buffet dinner (for 150 people!). Maria Kumagai then entertained us on the

Rodgers 340, including DeFalla's *Ritual Fire Dance*, *I Enjoy Being a Girl*, and *Holiday for Strings*.



Don Thompson and Sandy Fleet console. (Stufoto)

On Sunday morning at the San Diego Fox we heard Bill Thomson play the 4/32 Robert Morton that the San Diego Theatre Organ Group has refurbished and maintained. He played a medley from *Merry Widow*, *2001 Space Odyssey Theme*, and *This Could Be the Start of Something Big*. After intermission we heard *The Continental*, and an original composition, *Flight From Harbor Island* from his *Bahama Suite*. He closed with Monti's *Czardas*, a medley from *Sound of Music*, and for an encore, selections from *Man of La Mancha*. He left shortly thereafter for an Australian tour.

The San Diego trip must have held a tremendous fascination for some of

our members, ones who went through unbelievable travail to make the trip. Example: Joe Koons, who hosts the most famous Saturday night theatre organ jam session in the West, underwent major surgery seven days before the trip. His doctor didn't have the heart to tell him he'd be in the hospital 7 to 10 days, and there was no way he could go. Joe awoke from anesthesia asking "where's the bus!" and went home 5 days later. Through the efforts of Kim Nagano, Joe was able to take in all the events — transported by Kim's station wagon.

Another couple arrived at the "blast off point" in Los Angeles, ready to get on the San Diego-bound bus, only to discover that their bags, sitting on the sidewalk, had been taken to the airport by mistake. They drove to the airport, retrieved their baggage and boarded a plane for San Diego, and were waiting there when the three buses arrived. For them it was "Pipes and Planes." Needless to say, a good time was had by all.

MALIN DOLLINGER

MOTOR CITY

We had fun during the third week of July showing 1106 ATOSers a good time at the Note-able Nineteenth. The planning and cooperation of so many chapter members helped to make this year's convention enjoyable for everyone, that is impossible to name them all without leaving someone out. The overwhelming success of the convention is a real tribute to Convention Chairman Al Mason, who lived to see it all happen.

Our annual picnic was held on Sunday, August 18, at the home of Betty Mason, and was attended by more than 100 chapter members. The weatherman was on our side as we grilled steaks and hamburgers on the



Maria Kumagai

(Stufoto)

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While some members lounged in folding chairs in the back yard, still talking about the convention, the sound of the 3/10 Wurlitzer, Hammond, upright piano or grand piano could be heard almost continuously throughout the afternoon. Since the convention brochures and vinyl portfolios were completely depleted by the record convention attendance, the only things left to offer picnickers were the decorative plaster plaques on a ribbon, picturing chapter organ consoles. These were sold in record numbers during a mid-afternoon limited-time-only sale. Chapter members had given out-of-towners first chance to purchase the plaques during the convention.

On Sunday, August 25, we were guests of the Wolverine Chapter at the Royal Oak Theatre, where Don Jenks and Lance Luce were heard in concert at the 3/13 Barton. An open console session followed the program.

Contributions to the Al Mason Memorial Fund (for educational scholarships) can be made payable and sent to: Motor City Theatre Organ Society, P.O. Box 2329, Livonia, Michigan 48150.

DON LOCKWOOD

NIAGARA FRONTIER

With the Niagara Frontier Chapter located along the U.S. - Canadian border we are pleased that we have many members on both sides of the border. The hardest part about crossing this border is the raising of the 35 cent bridge toll, otherwise we cross back and forth quite freely.

For the past several years a group of Canadians, namely Gordon and Thelma Gillette, along with Ken and Dorris Martin and sometimes ac-

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companied by Art Smith, have quietly crossed into the United States where they were met by Tom and Jane VanBrocklin (collaborators) and have gone about the job of completely rebuilding the 2/8 Wurlitzer in the Rapids Theatre at Niagara Falls, N.Y. Hats off to a dedicated group.

On July 24, Rex Koury appeared in concert at the Riviera for the second time. We did this review not by listening, but by looking. Everyone returned to their seats after intermission, and stayed in their seats until after three encores, only leaving their seats for the three standing ovations. They had to turn the lights out to get the crowd to go home. When are you coming back, Rex?

Our August concert was a first time for both the artist and the crowd. Greg Gurtner made his debut as a concert theatre organist. Greg is known to many of our chapter members having played at parties and other club functions. He is also well known to the movie patrons of the Riviera, playing regularly before shows and at intermissions where he has been house

organist for some time. He also plays at one of the local supper clubs.

Greg played something for everyone, accompanied the slides for a sing-along, a silent movie and the Lillian & Sid dance team. Another added attraction was Roy Simon at the Steinway concert grand piano. We are proud of Greg and think we will be hearing more about him.

In September our artist will be Don Thompson, another regular who keeps coming back and pleasing the crowd year after year.

Our October concert will find another first at the Riviera, Bill Langford.

In November, our chapter Sweetheart Luella Wickham will be the artist. At the 1970 convention, after Luella played *Tico Tico*, the late Ben Hall said, "Now I know where Ethel Smith learned to play *Tico Tico*. Luella is well known from coast to coast, especially by the convention goers, as she never misses a convention.

In December, Frank Olson will make another annual appearance at the Riviera. Frank is another one of those great internationally known artists whom the crowd wants back year after year. We have heard Frank many times throughout the years and never seem to get enough of his playing.

This will complete our schedule for this year for our public concerts, unless some artist happens along on a night that the theatre is available.

STEVE CROWLEY

POTOMAC VALLEY

While some chapters might take a vacation even from their interest in the theatre organ, Potomac Valley Chapter only increased its activities! July brought a visit to the unusual and

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Eddie Weaver at the Byrd Theatre Wurlitzer
(Mark Hurley Photo)

interesting antique musical instrument museum owned by Mr. Jim Wells. Over a period of quite a few years Mr. Wells has been swapping, trading and buying. The result is a collection of items which is nothing less than astounding, from Violin Virtuosos to a calliope. To everyone's delight we heard many of these instruments play, including a "Gee Dad It's A Wurlitzer" band organ.

The month of August was very special in the history of this chapter as the month we obtained and moved OUR CHAPTER KIMBALL PIPE ORGAN. Yes, The Potomac Valley now has its own organ project and thirty-

two of our members turned out on moving day to assist in the project. Even now, while it rests in our storage location, we are formulating plans for its complete renovation and final installation. The "action" chapter is moving right ahead with the full support and assistance of every member.

To round out the month of August we were all treated to a superb performance of no less than Mr. Showman of Richmond, Mr. Eddie Weaver, at the console of the beautiful Byrd Wurlitzer. Eddie's natural and relaxed handling of each and every piece demonstrated his proficiency which can only be obtained from a combination of genuine talent coupled with years of work. To add to the enjoyment of this occasion we made many new acquaintances with our guests, the Piedmont Chapter. To further highlight the affair we were honored to have present three of our National officers, Dr. Paul Abernethy, Mrs. Jean Lautzenheiser, and Mr. Erwin Young.

ROY WAGNER

WEST PENN

WPTO's Summer caravans for 1974 got underway on June 30th with a trip to the DeBence Musical Museum in Franklin, Pa., just north of Pittsburgh.

Upon entering we were met with a wonderland of color from the authentic Tiffany shades to the many mechanical instruments that lined the walls.

Names such as Link, Cremona, Aeolian, Gebruder, Rand of North Tonawanda and of course Wurlitzer were seen and the sounds of music boxes, player pianos, orchestrions and orchestrelles, calliopes and band organs of all types were heard.



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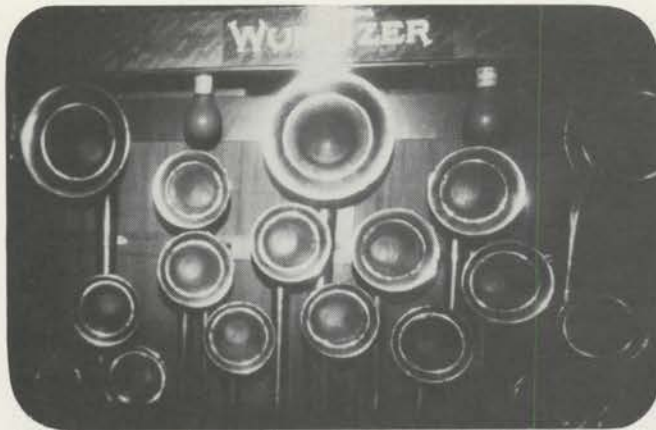
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The cabinet adornments ranged from cherubs to stained glass with such musical selections as *Kiss Me*, *Wang Wang Blues*, a Sousa march or two and an occasional waltz, polka and oberek.

As you listen your eyes are treated to many reminders of the past, such as clocks and clothing from the turn of the century, plaques commemorating practically everything and clever catch phrases on yellowed post cards.

One of the really great features of a


program like this was that all present could enjoy the music, even West Penn's gifted organists who just stayed back and let the early 20th century automation take over. No stops to pull, no pedals to push, no musicians to blame the clinkers on, just good old-fashioned musical fun.

This program which proved to be a very popular one by its good attendance, was the first undertaking by our new program chairman and past president, Ray Galbraith, and was the brainchild of another past president, Harrold Meinhardt (both were in attendance). It also was the first program co-attended by West Penn and their sister society, the Pittsburgh Area Theatre Organ Society.

WOLVERINE

On August 25, Detroit's Royal Oak Theatre was the scene for another in a series of "member" concerts. Lance Luce opened the program at the 3/13 Barton with *The Carousel Waltz*. Throughout Lance's program, it was evident that he had done considerable work in choosing just the right registration for each piece. His arrangement of *March Militaire* showed off the new Durst Post Horn, donated by another Wolverine member — Gary Montgomery. He chose Scott Joplin's *The Entertainer* for an encore, showing off the Royal Oak's superb new piano.


After a short intermission, Don



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Don Jenks and Lance Luce at the Royal Oak 3/13 Barton.

(L.G. Mallet Photo)

Jenks, former D.T.O.C. president, took the helm of the Barton with a medley of tunes in a tribute to summer, starting with *On A Wonderful Day Like Today*. His program included several medlies, each one woven around a particular theme. Don's program ended with a medley from the movie, *That's Entertainment*.

Don also owns a 3/10 Barton, originally installed in Detroit's Birmingham Theatre, a duplicate of the Redford and Royal Oak Theatre Bartons. His familiarity with the Barton organ was quite evident in his

registrations.

The morning program ended with an open console session at the Barton, during which many members and guests took part. Motor City Chapter, and in particular, Mert Harris and the crew, are to be congratulated on keeping the Barton in such fine shape.

Following the Sunday morning concert, Wolverine members enjoyed a most entertaining afternoon at the home of Gary Montgomery and H. Scott. No matter where one ventured at the residence, one could always depend on an abundance of organ

music. Upstairs was Gary's superb Rodgers electronic organ and a Steinway grand piano. In the basement of the Bloomfield Hills home was a Hammond and yet another grand piano, and, outdoors at poolside, we were entertained by a series of tapes from the 1974 ATOS Convention. All who attended were provided with a buffet dinner. Chairman Lawrie Mallett called a business meeting during the afternoon to thank Gary and Scott for their hospitality. Wolverine is indeed fortunate to have such a high percentage of fine musicians in its membership.

SCOTT S. SMITH

WESTERN RESERVE

In a previous chapter note we introduced our audience to the name of Lance Havens who was a surprise guest at our 1973 Christmas Party. Since then, W.R.T.O.S. has had the pleasure of hearing Lance play the silent film *The Pilgrim*, written and directed by Charles Chaplin who also starred in it. It was voted 1923's best comedy; and its story may be briefly summarized as "love conquers all, even the heart of an escaped convict."

Launcelot Havens was born in Canada but brought to East Cleveland at the age of three, where he has been

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