



Lance Havens at the 3/13 Wurlitzer Gray's Armory, Cleveland, Ohio.

a resident ever since. After preparing formally as a church organist through study in Toronto, Ontario, he began theatre work in 1920 at Loew's Euclid, at East 9th and Euclid. When this theatre was destroyed for the Union Commerce building now on this site, he subsequently played Loews Stillman, Loews State, the Hippodrome, and RKO Palace. He completed his theatre career at the Five Points Theatre. During the period 1932 thru 1952 Mr. Havens was organist at the First E. & R. Church in addition to full time sales activities. In

1952 he joined the organ department at Higbee's Department Store in Cleveland, Ohio, where he remained until retirement. We all thoroughly enjoyed the evening presented by Lance Havens and are pleased to thank him publicly at this time!

Not ever having attended a convention — any convention at all, I was excited that my first one involved music and was a thoroughly enjoyable experience — all the way, from our hotel accommodations to our gracious reception at registration, to the delightful Dennis and Heidi James Concert, the elegant cocktail party where we saw Ashley Miller and Lloyd Del Castillo, to charming and flambouyant Lyn Larsen (who was being filmed and interviewed for a local Detroit television program) and on to debonair Don Baker. An international flavor of good taste and congeniality reflected by visitors from Canada, Australia, Honolulu, Texas, North Carolina, England, etc. and profession excellence epitomized three memorable days for us and our friends from Cleveland: Tillie and Charlie Powers, Harold Wright, Denny Richards, Alice and Fred Packard, Florence and Verne Webster, Ruth and Milo Swanson and Mary and George Krejci. Thank you, Convention Headquarters!

During a recent visit to New York, Eric Rossin called on Ray Bohr, now

Chief Organist since the retirement of Dick Liebert. Mr. Bohr, who has been at the Radio City Music Hall console for 27 years, graciously gave about 90 minutes of his time to talk about his experiences and also about theatre organ playing in general. He made a specific point decrying the fact that the 3/27 Wurlitzer at the El Bombarde in Panama City had been dismantled so abruptly. Doug Powers, son of Charlie Powers, President of W.R.T.O.S., wrote an excellent descriptive article about this fine organ in the October, 1972 issue of THEATRE ORGAN, and Jon Fisher reviewed the circumstances, of its demise in the June, 1974 issue of THEATRE ORGAN. Leroy Lewis, organist, innovated and initiated the original placement of the 3/27 into the El Panama Hotel of which El Bombarde is the lounge area. The last organist to play there was Sr. Luis Alvarez of Panama who performed Tuesday, January 22, 1974.

Personally, this writer thinks it strange that no-one now knows of its whereabouts or fate. This "treasure" will surely be lost to negligence and apathy if the "organ world" does not respond and inquire *this year!*

For those correspondents interested, its last known address is: El Panama Hotel, Via Espanoa 111, phone: 23-1660. BEA ROSSIN

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