



# BOOK REVIEW

THE RTOS STORY  
by F.G. Hibbard

A book published to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Rochester Theatre Organ Society. Available from RTOS, 1732 Hudson Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14617. Size: 11"x11", 32 pages, price \$3.50 postpaid.

On occasion of the tenth anniversary of RTOS a book has been published which traces the history of this independent, dynamic group and divulges their future plans, some of which have already been implemented.

The book contains 24 pages of text, carefully selected photos, diagrams, plus dramatic semi-transparent inserts which trace the history of the group as well as their famous project, the 4/22 Wurlitzer opus 1951. The history of the organ in the RKO Palace, Rochester, to the Auditorium Theatre is fully documented, both in text and photos.

Much of the work producing the brochure was done by students and graduates of the Rochester Institute of Technology, School of Printing, College of Graphic Arts and Photography.

The finished product indicates that RIT turns out excellent artists and craftsmen. The color reproduction is among the best ever encountered.

The entire document is very well laid out in every respect. It is divided into six categories; History, Entertainment, Educational, Technical, Administration, and Future. Each subject is fully covered. The only thing found missing from the effort is a stolist of the organ.

The 1100 members of RTOS (A high percentage are ATOS members) can be proud of the success of their group as shown in this book. They can also take pride in the knowledge that Wurlitzer Opus 1951 is one of the few theatre pipe organs available that is considered to be in "concert condition".

All theatre organ enthusiasts should consider purchase of the RTOS Story as a handsome addition to their library. □



# CHAPTER NOTES

## ALABAMA

Charlie Cox was back in Alabama once again for a special program for the chapter members during the September meeting. Charlie began his musical career in Huntsville, Alabama and continued his studies while in service at the Air Force Band School in Washington. From there he was with Special Services of the Air Force in the Far East. After discharge from the Air Force, he came to Birmingham in 1955 and served as organist for the Alabama Theatre for 14 years. He is now part owner and manager of Keyboards, Inc. in Orlando, Florida.

He was a delight to Birmingham audiences, being known for his showmanship as well as his organistic abilities, and he has certainly lost none of it. He played a well rounded program and we were impressed with his tasteful use of the percussions, bringing to our minds what the theatre organ was



Larry Donaldson heads the Alabama work crew.

originally meant to do — replace an orchestra.

The October program was open console with the following taking turns: Connie Ann Parson, Riedel West, Larry Rodrigues, Dan Liles, Alleen Cole, Gloria Ferguson, Sandra



Only part of the Alabama Chapter work crew.



Charlie Cox at the Alabama Theatre Wurlitzer.



Thomas Hatter is the official photographer for the Alabama Chapter.

Cavnar, Evelyn Jones, Travis Cavnar, Ray Straits, Ralph Ferguson, Norville Hall and Jay Mitchell.

It has been fun during the last two years to watch the progress of each one at the console.

As our second year as a chapter draws to a close, it seems appropriate to devote some space to those who have made it possible to have an organ to enjoy. First, the work crew. Larry Donaldson has faithfully and conscientiously headed up the crew. He is a young Birmingham man now living in Copperhill, Tenn., and has to drive many miles for the once a month work sessions. No one knows how many other times he spends almost all night working on special problems. He has been assisted by Joan and Lee Aured,

Frank Barksdale, Mildred Baucom, Connie and Connie Ann Boyd, Sandra and Travis Cavnar, Don and Alleen Cole, Betty Crowe, Ellis Dunnavant, Charles Durham, Billy Evans, Beatrice and Ola Fee, Norville, Hall, Jim Harris, Paul Houston, Evelyn and Frank Jones, Danny Kiel, Dan Liles, Jay Mitchell, Cecil Prescott, Bruce Rockett, Joyce and Ray Straits, Oran Truss, and Riedel West.

In addition to all the people who

have put in time on the organ, we would also like to mention Jim Ferguson who has printed our programs each month, giving the added touch of professionalism to the programs.

Last, but certainly not least, is Thomas Hatter. Mr. Hatter has furnished all the pictures for Chapter Notes.

With our membership of approximately only 50 families, it is easy to see that most of them are *working* members. Can anything other than a bright future be predicted for the Alabama Chapter?

ALLEEN COLE

## ALOHA

Honolulu, Hawaii — Theatre organ restoration expert Merle Bobzien is setting a record. Starting last August he removed windlines, cables, relays, chests and the console of the 4/16 Robert Morton pipe organ in Honolulu's Hawaii Theatre for repair and renewal. The organ is expected to be playing again in November.

Assisting him was a small nucleus of Aloha Chapter members who made the acquaintance of rubber cloth, polyton, PVC-E glue and preformed Perflex pouches. Especially adept at re-leathering with the new man-made materials were the girls who found the glue somewhat deadly on finger nails and manicures.

Merle belongs to the new school of



Workers at Hawaii Theatre project. (Left to right) Scott Bosch, Jim Chandler, John De Mello and work chief Merle Bobzien.

organ maintenance men who no longer have faith in the durability of animal products and hope to eliminate leather and glue with plastic and casein base glue. On the mainland such animal products have suffered severe deterioration as the result of polluted atmosphere.

Hawaii is fortunate that it has clean air and the old red Morton leather showed only the ravages of 52 years of hard use, not the decay of chemically laden air. More heartbreaking was discovery of termite damage in wind trunks, relay stacks and regulators.

Hawaii has two kinds of these pests, "dry wood" termites and "ground" termites. The former swarm twice a year on a warm still night, mate, lose their wings and find their way into wood nests. The ground variety devotes its life to eating underground utility cables, roots and wood foundations.

The 52 year old Hawaii Theatre is a haven for "dry wood" termites and its owner, Consolidated Amusement Company, has waged an almost losing battle against them. Tenting and gassing of the pipe chambers was done since liquid exterminators would injure organ parts. Earlier maintenance crews had used Paris Green (arsenic) in the console and chests.

Since the console and chamber are above ground level, ground termites are no problem.

Merle Bobzien of Burbank, California, is on the staff of Dick Stoney, who heads maintenance of the Los Angeles Elks huge Robert Morton. Merle felt at home with Hawaii's Morton components as the factory had achieved standardization and consistency.

Since the theatre opens at 9:30 A.M. and runs until after midnight, Merle had the console moved back stage where he could work on it without disturbing audiences. Aloha Chapter's club room in the theatre has been converted to a workshop where parts, materials and supplies are spread about.

The chapter is fortunate to be able to employ Merle on this partial restoration project. His professional techniques and skills are very evident in the completed work.

Of great help was chapter member Richard Harger of Pipe Organs Hawaii (Harger and Schoenstein) who furnished parts, supplies and machinery to facilitate Merle's work. Not to be



Policeman on duty gives an assist to Scott Bosch.



Al and Claire Watson re-working console parts.



Al Van Der Woerd concentrates on Robert Morton pneumatics.



Merle Bobzien is not daunted by the dismantled Robert Morton console.

forgotten is Frank Sherwood of both Aloha and Los Angeles Chapters who found and recommended Merle at the recent Detroit ATOS convention.

JOHN JENKINS

## BEEHIVE

Pipes and Pizza, located at 4400 South State Street in Salt Lake City, was the setting for a delightful chapter meeting on October 13. The hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Christensen, were most helpful and accommodating. After a short meeting members were invited to play the Wurlitzer. The organ, setting and decor has really made Pipes and Pizza a favorite place for the young and old of Salt Lake.

Silent movies are run giving many people who are unfamiliar with this type of entertainment a chance to enjoy them.

Mr. Christensen has purchased another pipe organ and will probably install it in another building in the Provo area. He has sold the Arcade Theatre and is installing the pipe organ from that theatre in his home. He and his wife are truly theatre organ enthusiasts and the chapter members wish to thank them for their many hours of time and expense they have put forth to bring this type of entertainment to the people of Salt Lake.

During the months of September and October the theatre fans were treated to the delightful music of Lyn Larsen, David Reese and Frank Stitt, all ATOS members in their areas. Lyn performs on a pipe organ in Phoenix, David in Martinez, Calif., and Mr. Stitt in the Bay Area. These members played dinner concerts, David and Frank played for dance parties also at the Organ Loft.

MAXINE V. RUSSELL

## CEDAR RAPIDS

Our Fall season opened on September 15 at the Cedar Rapids Paramount with Walter Stronjy. As CRATOS Chairman Ray Snitil described the program, "the sound of violins, oboes, clarinets and other instruments were heard tuning up." Some sharp raps by the conductor on his podium (really the wood block) brought the unit 'orchestra's' attention together to play the rousing opener *Cabaret*. Other highlights of Walt's program were *My Hero*, *Stormy Weather* and *My Vision* which was composed by his former teacher,

Chicago Stadium organist, Al Melgard. This was Walt's second appearance for our group, the last two years ago. In that time he has grown up – literally and musically. Stronjy will be remembered as the student of Melgard's who shared the program at the Chicago Stadium during the 1969 ATOS Convention.

Guests for the morning concert included Len Clarke, advertising manager of THEATRE ORGAN magazine, Greg Filardo, director of Dairyland Chapter in Milwaukee, Richard Sklenar, editor of VOX CATOE and the artist's parents.

In the afternoon Chairman Ray Snilil held a business meeting and reported on the Detroit ATOS Convention. Slides of the organs, theatres and artists were shown. Incidentally, we are proud to report that Chariman Snilil headed a delegation of 21 members of CRATOS chapter in attendance at the Convention.

Thursday, October 3, marked the fourth Silent Movie Nite at the Capitol Theatre, Davenport, Iowa. Not only was a capacity crowd happy but so was Rex Koury, the performing artist. He opened the program with *On A Wonderful Day Like Today* as the three-manual Wicks organ rose from the orchestra pit on its recently installed Barton lift. Rex then proceeded to play virtually every style of music from *Ain't She Sweet* to *Aquarius*. Literally pulling out all the stops, he demonstrated the organ's versatility as he constantly switched registrations. The first half of the program concluded with a sing-along.

Koury opened the second part of the show with the Buster Keaton film "College." During the movie, Rex demonstrated his great talent accompanying the silent action: molding the music to the scene, adding distinctive bits of humor, doing what is known as close cueing. "That's an attempt as much as possible to catch every bash or sound and reproduce it on the organ, being particularly true in slapstick things," according to Rex.

Koury capped the evening by playing his most famous composition, the theme from "Gunsmoke." This was Rex Koury's second appearance for CRATOS having played for us at the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Paramount on November 8, 1973.

Sometime before the Koury show, Treasurer Bob Beck's wife, Carolyn, wrote to Martin Wick, president of



Organist Rex Koury poses with Martin Wick, president of Wicks Organ Co. The console is a 3 manual Wicks Theatre Organ, Capitol Theatre, Davenport, Iowa. (Bill Lamb Photo)

Wicks Organ Co., whose father John was the builder of the organ installed at the Capitol in 1928, inviting him to be a guest at the Koury concert. Mr. Wick, his wife Barbara, and his vice-president George Gibbons, all of Highland, Ill. flew to Davenport on Thursday so that they could attend the evening concert. Looking around the Capitol, Wick said, "It's such a nice thing to see an old theatre kept up like this. And what I like to see is people taking a neglected old theatre pipe organ and putting it back in good condition." Wick displayed expert knowledge of the intricate interior workings of organs but one of his observations is humorous. "You know, each pipe is like a person. It has toes, feet, an upper lip, a lower lip and a body. But it's much easier to get along with. It doesn't talk back."

BYRON F. OLSEN

## CENTRAL INDIANA

A long awaited event became a reality on Sunday, September 8, when the CIC-ATOS had its first meeting at Manual High School in Indianapolis. After many months and many hours of hard work and patient endeavor under the direction of Carl Wright, the 2 manual, 10 rank Louisville Uniphone, installed in the school's auditorium, was finally ready for performance.

Carl, who is the manager of Manual High School's Auditorium, told the nearly 100 members and guests some of the interesting things about the history of the organ and had several excellent displays ready for the mem-

bership to view. The organ was originally installed in the Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

Highlighting the afternoon's activities was the dramatic presentation of a three manual Kilgen theatre console, recently acquired for the installation and made possible through the generosity of Honorary CIC-ATOS member, C.S. Ober of Indianapolis.

Carl Wright introduced the honored guests present, including Dr. Karl Kalp, superintendent of the Indianapolis Public School System, and Mrs. Kalp; Mr. Wayne Kincaid, assistant superintendent, and Mrs. Kincaid; and Mrs. Frederick Jones of Louisville, Kentucky, who was the organist at the Crescent Hill Baptist Church for 30 years when the Louisville Uniphone was located in that church. The organ is to be known as the Crescent Hill-Manual Organ.

A brief formal program was given by Larry MacPherson, Mary Drake and Ruth Kirkpatrick, CIC-ATOS members, followed by an afternoon of open console, and a chance for members to view the displays and tour the chambers.

*Autumn Leaves* might well have been the theme song for our October meeting. Approximately 40 members journeyed to Vincennes, Indiana on a beautifully warm and bright fall day. The awesome beauty of southern Indiana and the ensuing program made it a special day for remembering.

The meeting was held in the auditorium on the campus of Vincennes University. Members of the Consollar Organ Club of Evansville, Indiana joined CIC-ATOS for a most interest-

ing afternoon of organ music. The fall and early winter activities involving CIC-ATOS were announced by Tim Needler, president, and it looks like a very busy and interesting schedule coming up. Our "pipe-organing" calendar is already so full of extra-curricular activities that we may just possibly have to "squeeze" to get regularly scheduled things in too. That's almost becoming the rule – but it's fun isn't it!

Earlier reporting of Indiana related activities indicated that the Embassy Foundation had been formed to obtain and restore for civic use, the Embassy Theatre in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Bob Goldstein, one of the original members of the Embassy Foundation, was on hand to bring the latest word on the Embassy situation. This group now has an option to buy this property and is going all out to obtain the necessary financing. The Embassy houses a 4/12 Page which is in excellent condition and will ultimately serve many uses in civic, community and concert endeavors. The theatre has a seating capacity of 2,800 and will be a real asset to organ enthusiasts and the public in general.

An announcement was made that Dennis James would be appearing in concert in November at the First Christian Church in Columbus, Indiana. This is an 80 rank, 4 manual Aeolian Skinner installed in the Columbus church in 1944. This will be an all sacred concert. Dennis is an accomplished organist in both classical and theatre stylings.

A welcome was given by CIC-ATOS President, Tim Needler, to the Evansville group. Milton Hammers, president of Evansville's Consollears, spoke briefly but chose to dispense with official business until another time.

Professor Richard Ertel, chairman of Vincennes University's Music Department was introduced. After a few words of welcome, he presented a delightful program on the 3 manual, 12 rank Wurlitzer theatre organ in the university's auditorium. Appropriately he started his program with *Hi Neighbor* and played a very interesting program to fully "show off" this beautiful instrument, using current selections and a medley of selections from the 30's and 40's which he titled "Salute to Tommy (Dorsey)." Professor Ertel's commentary on the organ was most interesting. It originally

was located in Birmingham, Michigan and interestingly, Bob Goldstein (Fort Wayne) had played it when it was in a private home in Michigan.

Open console time followed and all afternoon was filled with excellent organ renditions to the delight of everyone. Two things are always apparent when ATOS members get together – good organ music and plenty of good food. With both Evansville and CIC-ATOS bringing refreshments, this was an extra good meeting! We were delighted to meet the Evansville group and thank them for sharing not only their afternoon with us but also their refreshments. Hope we can do it again sometime.

RUTH D. WARD

### CENTRAL OHIO

National ATOS has granted our petition to host a Regional Convention November 7, 8 and 9 of 1975, featuring the Robert Morton at the Ohio Theatre. Details of events will be furnished as plans are developed. Reserve these dates and plan to be with us.

Our annual meeting and election of officers was held in September at Van's Music Store hosted by Fritz Saenger, owner, and featuring the Rodgers organ. Always an enjoyed treat, the Rodgers was put through its paces by many of our talented members. The annual meeting was lively with the promise of an eventful year to come in all areas of activity promoted by ATOS. Pipe dreams show promise of becoming reality with the leadership of our re-elected president, Frank Babbitt.

With thanks to Mrs. Paul Noblitt we now have an excellent nucleus for our chapter library which, with unanimous zeal has been titled the Paul Noblitt Memorial Library. We received Paul's collection of tapes, pictures and mementos – tapes being available to chapter members for copy for personal use only.

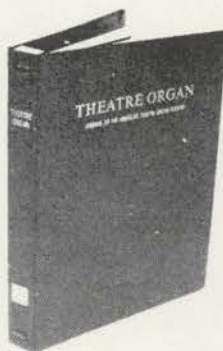
Our chapter's Palace Wurlitzer now has seven ranks playing wired to one manual.

Clarke & Greene counties in Ohio have been released from our area to permit formation of a Dayton/Springfield Chapter. We wish them every success and offer our assistance.

Ed Smith is currently adding electric relay preset action to the Ohio Morton to permit silent stop changing. A computer controlled capture system is being designed and should be in operation soon.

October found us in the rolling hills area of Somerset, Ohio, for the annual pot luck dinner meeting at the home of Ralph and Leona Charles with their Morton pipes. Kenny Winland was featured as opening concert artist followed by Lois Hays and then open console starting with Chris Phillips. It was the first time at this console for 12 year old Chris and he handled it admirably. With percussions and some pipe work exposed the organ is readily heard. In command of the soft stops was Marie Peer. We heard the beginning of a new Charles Prior, Jr. Charles has begun organ studies with Lowell Enoch, renowned artist and teacher in this area, and a previously recognized talent is budding anew with a young member. Gene Deeker of Marion, Ohio, a church organist for 28 years,

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came, saw, joined, played and conquered our appreciation of another talented member. Two long standing members we neither see or hear enough of were with us, both playing, — Lucy Shoemaker and Fred Lewis, Jr.

IRENE BLEGEN

## CHICAGO AREA

When CATOE presents Walt Strojny in his public concert debut at the Wurlitzer in the Pickwick Theatre, Park Ridge, on Dec. 12, it will conclude another active year in Chicago, "Theatre Organ Capitol of the World."

This past fall saw many CATOE events. On Sept. 8 another banquet was held at the ornate Baker Hotel, St. Charles, home of a twin console 3/10 Geneva. Les Hickory provided music for cocktails on the terrace and in the Trophy Room for dinner. Bill Benedict provided a magic lantern show of theatres and organs from throughout the country plus a sing-along, the music for which was recorded on the Montclare Theatre's Barton. A surprise arranged by Chairman Russ Joseph was the playing of the tape of Walt Strojny at the "Save the Fox" program in Atlanta. Special guests were Dr. and Mrs. William Barnes and Brother Andrew Corsini of the Theatre Historical Society.



Jim Roseveare reliving the thirties from the console of the 3/11 Wurlitzer at Downers Grove High School  
(Bill Lamb Photo)

San Francisco's Jim Roseveare was at Downers Grove North High School on Sept. 21 for a concert of his special Jesse Crawford recreations. Jim's program is unique and appeals to Crawford fans though some of the selections were not very familiar. Sharing the bill with Jim was "When So

Few Actually Play." This film made movie stars of the many CATOE members who were responsible for removing, rebuilding and reinstalling the 3/10 Wurlitzer in the high school. John Grune and Dennis Minear provided musical scoring.



Bob Coe at the modern console of the Arcada Theatre's 3/16 Geneva. A stop tab controls bells in niches which swing to and fro in the Mission style theatre.  
(Carl Anderson Photo)

Two nights of vaudeville on Oct. 18 and 19 featured Neil Foster and Jay Marshall on stage. Foster is a master illusionist and did wonders with lighted cigarettes and ordinary playing cards. Member Marshall had a pleasant line of patter, did some tricks, and made his "Lefty" talk. M.C. Doug Christensen was kept busy tying all the acts together with words while Bob Coe kept them together with music. Coe, also a member of CATOE, is a veteran of the heyday having played in Minnesota and Wisconsin theatres. Besides a sing-along with Bob's own

paradies, he accompanied "Haunted Spooks."

The most exciting event of the fall season was a "A Wonderful Wurlitzer Weekend" bus trip to CRATOS land. Cedar Rapids Area Chapter Chairman Ray Snitil hosted a bus load of CATOEs who visited seven organs. Starting with the Wicks at the Davenport Capitol Theatre, the group also visited at the home of Howard and Norma Adams to play their 3/10 Barton formerly in the Tower Theatre, Milwaukee. Jim and Bob Adams were also on hand to demonstrate the air calliope and Wurlitzer band organ. From there it was on to Muscatine, Iowa, and the Musser Museum, an old restored residence with an Estey organ with roll player and a rare glass bar harp. Then it was to the hilltop home of Dr. and Mrs. John Klein which overlooks the Mississippi River. Their 3/14 Wurlitzer is a jewel. Dr. Klein was especially gracious to have us visit as he had undergone open heart-surgery a month before. Sunday in Cedar Rapids found the group at the Iowa Theatre to see and hear the 3/14 Barton, then on to the Paramount Theatre to hear the voice of Rock Island's Channel 4 TV, Paul Adams (of the Aledo, Ill. Adamses). Paul presented a great program on the 3/11 Wurlitzer. Then it was on to the Howard Burton home for a chance to play his 2/7 Wurlitzer before the bus left for home.

It has been an active year for CATOE, filled with concert programs and monthly socials. We expect to continue next year providing more and varied events for our 275 members



The Wurlitzer band organ of the Aledo (Ill.) Adams Family was a center of attention during the CATOE fall bus trip to CRATOS-land  
(Jim Taggart Photo)

including a spring program at the Chicago Theatre.

RICHARD J. SKLENAR

### CONN VALLEY

September was highlighted in Connecticut by the appearance of Eddie Weaver at the Thomaston Opera House the nights of the 20th and 21st at the console of the Marr and Colton to play the first of the Rice Memorial Fund concerts. Being one of the country's foremost theatre organists, and especially well remembered in the New Haven area where he played at the Paramount for a number of years, Eddie was most warmly received at Thomaston and he helped the Fund off to a very good start.

On October 12 we had our first Fall meeting in Manchester at the home of Irving and Anita Twomey, where there are many marvelous music machines, all in working order, plus two grand pianos and a two-manual Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ which, with its console-controlled Ampico Grand Piano, sounds great. We have had most enjoyable meetings there before and this one was another such. Console was open the middle portion of the afternoon. The business session, which included the nomination of officers and committee chairmen for 1975, took place before dinner hour; after dinner we returned for the concert portion of the day's program.

Our evening's guest artist was K Lareau who has appeared publicly in southern New England. She gave us a nice program of new and old popular tunes including a few from the motion pictures of the 1920's. Also included was a sampler of Scott Joplin. In addition to K, the concert hour program included a presentation by Phil Stock at the console accompanying his wife who played the violin. This was out of the ordinary for us and most

delightful. Phil also led a bit of community singing with enthusiastic response from the forty-seven members and twenty-seven guests present. Many thanks to our hosts, the Twomeys, the artists, K Lareau and Mr. and Mrs. Phil Stock, and the chapter officers and committees.

### GARDEN STATE

The May meeting was a first meeting of Garden State Chapter in the Pascack Theatre, Westwood, N.J. The 2/6, soon to be an 8 rank Wurlitzer again, was played and enjoyed by the Sunday morning members who munched donuts, sipped coffee and explored the theatre and pipe chambers. The crew members Warren Brown, Roy Frenski, Dick Orr, Bob Quinn, Rick Seigle, Ed Unis and Joe Vanore deserve a great deal of credit in restoring the solo chamber which had been water damaged and pilfered over the years.

There is a special thrill and feeling of pride to be able to add another restored Wurlitzer in a theatre to the chapter's list, thus enabling a brand new group of theatre-goers to hear and experience the great sounds of theatre organ.

In June, Garden State Chapter members were invited to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mc Kissock to enjoy the large versatile pipe organ that Bill recently installed. This magnificent organ contains seven ranks of reeds, ten ranks of beautiful strings, two Tibias as well as five sets of tuned percussions and many non-tuned ones. Now add a four manual Aeolian Skinner draw knob console, plus a total of 32 ranks and you have "Heaven, I'm In Heaven!" This organ is so beautifully modulated it's a delight to hear. Bill and his charming wife Mary Ann were on hand to help the sixty or so

members who came and played or listened. Outside the rains and wind; inside beautiful music by Patti Germain who manipulated this monster console like the "pro" she is. Using the versatility of this organ, her program varied from classics, pop, *Rhapsody in Blue* using the piano stops and of course ending with the greatest swinging march band going.

In answer to all who did not wish the "organized" fun to stop for the summer, Chairman Irving Light, who heads up the Program committee, planned a Family Picnic in July. It was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Drake where umbrella tables clustered around their charming home and beautiful gardens. Each family brought their own picnic basket. Joe Vanore, a Physical Education teacher, supplied equipment for all sorts of sports activities, mostly enjoyed by the children. The H-100 Hammond inside never cooled with several young talented organists supplying background music. The remainder of the afternoon was spent in the large bicycle shop of the Mahns family where a nine rank pipe organ is installed. Art Tower, who accompanied many silent movies when he was young, gave a



Walter and Bob Mahns (far right) host Garden State at their Bicycle Shop.

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mini sampling of how it was done. House Organist Bob Mahns demonstrated the organ using all the sounds. His capable and very easy to listen to stylings were enjoyed. Who knows an organ better than the fellow who puts all the extra hours of loving care into it. Open console followed.

Can you imagine the chagrin on Don Plenkens face when he turned around after playing several numbers to find the large room empty? All of the members had disappeared upstairs as Mr. Walter Mahns was giving the group a tour thru his unique collection of antique bicycles, many dating back to the turn of the century. The children especially were delighted with these unusual bikes, secretly hoping they could hop up on one. The five seater from Holland caught everyone's eye. Coffee and family desserts were shared. Thus ended a pleasant day at the shore area of Wall Township and Eatontown.

JINNY VANORE

### LAND O' LAKES

October 12 and 13 proved to be a memorable weekend for forty members of the Land O' Lakes Chapter.

Leaving Minneapolis at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday, we travelled by chartered bus to the homes of Fran and Chuck

Welch and Ruby and Reiny Delzer in Bismarck, North Dakota. These two couples have fabulous homes directly across the street from one another each containing a fine theatre pipe organ in mint condition. The Welchs and Delzers are outstanding hosts and hostesses who unselfishly turned their homes over to us for the weekend.

The Welchs 2/9 Marr and Colton is a gem with beautiful voicing, and the music room into which it speaks is very large allowing the sound to develop in a thrilling manner; solo stops as well as ensemble.

The Delzers have the 4/21 Wurlitzer which they moved directly from the Minnesota Theatre in Minneapolis to their home. This organ is also fortunate in being able to speak into a very large room and the result - "The Mighty Wurlitzer" in all its glory. Both of these music rooms have a great amount of comfortable seating for large audiences to relax and really enjoy the performances.

Semiformal programs were presented at each location by several artists including, from the Twin Cities, Clyde Olson, Karl Eilers and Alan Gerber; from Bismarck, Irene Peters; from Fargo, Lance Johnson and from Aberdeen, Bob Letherer who also accompanied two silent films. Both organs were available at all times so

that when the main action was taking place at one location there were some who slipped across the street to try their skill sans audience.

We boarded our bus at 4:00 P.M. on Sunday for the return trip. One redeeming phase of the long trip out and back was our own Don Taft who is a professional organist and accordionist. Don brought his squeeze box along and his great ability to entertain as well as produce delightful music shortened our otherwise long trip immeasurably.

We arrived back in Minneapolis at midnight a tired but happy group.

CLARENCE A. MUNSON

### LOS ANGELES

Tom Sheen returned to the Wiltern Kimball in September for a concert of old favorites, including *Another Opening, Another Show, The Sting*, a Duke Ellington Medley, and *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*. Tom's very listenable music is featured at the Pizza and Pipes in Seattle (3/16 Wurlitzer).

Our San Diego trip was a rousing success. Casual dress was the rule. It looked like a Hawaiian holiday. The theatre organ enthusiasts in San Diego have received a charter from ATOS National for their own chapter, taking



LAND OF LINCOLN CHAPTER

*Happy Holidays*

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Toledo Chapter ATOS

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LA Chapter members put on the feedbag in San Diego. They wished the new San Diego ATOS Chapter well. (Zimmerman Photo)

over our former southern-most territory. We wish the new San Diego Chapter well.

Lee Erwin visited us in October and was right at home on the Wiltern 4/37 Kimball. He brought the console up with *But Not For Me*, and after a subdued interpretation of *Always* played some of the lesser known Scott Joplin works, including *Original Rag* and *The Rosebud March*. He continued with *Diane*, *Cabaret*, and a group of Gay 90's selections. He promised to bring Gloria Swanson back with him for the next concert, as

he has done in the East, for a personal appearance and showing of the Swanson picture "Queen Kelly." Lee's new albums of organ music were rapidly sold out in the lobby.

Remaining concerts at the Wiltern for this year include Lyn Larsen on Nov. 17, Bill Million on Dec. 15, and Helen Dell on Jan. 19. A unique "Senior Organists" concert is being held at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium 3/15 Wurlitzer on Dec. 2, and will feature Gaylord Carter, Arlo Hults, Ann Leaf, and others. Arlo played this same organ when it was

originally installed in the RKO Albee Theatre in Brooklyn.

Joe Koons motorcycle shop in Long Beach, the home of the famous Wurlitzer/Welte, is the gathering place for our members on Saturday nights for the now-famous jam sessions. Many of you know of Joe's recent illnesses, which have required extensive and expensive hospital treatment. Some of Joe's friends got together to present a benefit concert for Joe, to help pay his many medical bills. This was held on Nov. 3 at the giant 4-manual 61-rank Robert Morton Pipe Organ that the chapter maintains at the Elks Club here in Los Angeles. Although not an official chapter function, almost all of our 650 plus members were represented. The concert featured the most fabulous array of talent. Featured organists were (alphabetically): Candi Carley, Gaylord Carter, Del Castillo, Helen Dell, Don Lee Ellis, Romona Gerhard, Maria Kumagai, Lyle Knight, Jack Moelmann, and Gerald Nagano, with Bill Worrall as Master of Ceremonies.

MALIN DOLLINGER

#### MOTOR CITY

Our Second Sunday open house at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor on September 8 featured member Mar-



*We Hope Y'all Have  
An Extra Nice  
Holiday Season*

**NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER**

*Season's  
Greetings*

from  
All The Members Of  
**WEST PENN**



**Season's  
Greetings**

the  
Lautzenheisers  
Marvin  
Jean  
GENII

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**Merry Christmas**

**GEORGE & CAROLINE ALLEN**

4/28 Publix # 1 "Crawford Special" Wurlitzer  
Aeolian Duo-Art and Hardman Pianos  
Delaware Valley Chapter • Haddonfield, N.J.



(Top) Dee Werner, Linda Luce, (bottom) Doloris Frank, Ron Werner and Alice Troyan lent a nautical atmosphere to "Yankee Clipper" at the Redford. (Marjorie Allen Photo)

Marjorie Allen's slide show of 1974 Convention Highlights. Her narration was accompanied by Bud Bates at the Michigan's 3/13 Barton. Non-ATOS visitors enjoyed the show, and, as well, the open console session that followed.

September 16-17 brought Lyn Larsen back to town for a two-night engagement at the Redford Theatre. The film was the 1927 Cecil B. DeMille classic "Yankee Clipper" star-

ring William Boyd. A near-capacity audience (total - 2275) enjoyed Lyn's appropriate accompaniment to the silent sea epic, the sing-along and his concert at the Redford's 3/10 Barton. Several members dressed as sailors, and one as a pirate, passed out printed programs to add to the nautical theme.

A most unique offer was made to our chapter this fall by Community Theatres, owners of the Redford Theatre. Scheduled to be closed, because

of lagging box office receipts, Community proposed that we assume the management of the Redford Theatre. Owing to the excellent relationship we have established over a period of years with Community, the theatre chain was firm in their belief that Motor City would be the best possible tenant for the building.

The Motor City Board of Directors met with representatives of Community Theatres on September 19 and the pros and cons of such an undertaking were discussed. Our board reacted favorably to the offer and presented it to the membership at a special meeting at the Royal Oak Theatre on October 13. The undertaking was unanimously approved by the members and possible uses to which the theatre could be put were discussed.

The Redford Project is a unique opportunity never before offered to an ATOS chapter and will involve the talents of a great many of our members. The theatre will not continue to operate as a neighborhood movie house under Motor City management, but will be open on a periodic basis for public presentations of silent film and organ programs. Practice time on the Barton organ will be made available to members and organ teachers will be able to offer lessons on "real pipes" to their students. The facility will also be

SEASON'S GREETINGS  
from your  
*South Florida Chapter*

BETTY MASON

Season's Greetings & Best Wishes in '75  
from  
**CRATOS**  
Cedar Rapids Area Theatre Organ Society

HOLIDAY GREETINGS  
members of J.A.T.O.E.  
and the Rialto Theatre Joliet, Ill.



The Redford, new home of the Motor City Chapter.

(Dan Lockwood Photo)

available to community and civic groups who require the use of a large auditorium.

The Redford Project will be financially self-supporting and the chapter's general funds will not be obligated. Important, too, is the fact that although the Redford will become the new home of MCTOS, activities at the Royal Oak, Punch & Judy and Michigan (Ann Arbor) theatres will not be affected.

Following the October 13 special meeting at the Royal Oak Theatre, members split into three groups for a Round-Robin visit to the home installations of Chuck Harris, Mert Harris

and Bill Hays.

After hosting a very successful Noteable Nineteenth this past summer, Motor City is once more enthusiastically involved in an educational project, this time, to preserve the theatre pipe organ in its natural setting, the theatre.

DON LOCKWOOD

### NIAGARA FRONTIER

As we near the holiday season and years' end, I would like to review my first full year as press secretary for the chapter.

We have had 14 public concerts

plus receptions for each artist the night before at the Thomas studio, 12 board meetings, and 12 Silent News-reel work sessions. All members are always welcome at the above mentioned activities. There are always two or three fine organists who attend these events and they always end up in jam sessions. Add this to our annual banquet and picnic, there is plenty to write about and I am willing to admit a few omissions.

Possibly through the works of gremlins, the following was omitted from our August chapter notes. On June 19, Ray Brubacher played his first concert at the Riviera. This writer had to pass up the concert, but had the pleasure of meeting the artist at the pre-concert reception for him on June 18 at the Thomas studio.

Either through absent-mindedness or just plain old age, I have no other excuse for not reporting one of our outstanding events of the year. On July 28, we arrived at the home of Dolores and Neal McDonalds about 2 P.M. for the chapter's annual picnic. We stayed well past midnight so how could I forget? There were yard games and a swimming pool for the outdoor crowd. The piano was moved onto the patio and music was the rule until dark, at which time the piano went back inside to be joined by the organ

happy  
holidays

from  
NIAGARA  
FRONTIER CHAPTER  
and  
RIVIERA THEATRE



Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year

from all of us in  
"THE ACTION CHAPTER"

POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER



SEASON'S  
GREETINGS

from  
MARTIN M. WICK  
President, Wicks Organ Company



Greetings

from  
GEORGE  
and  
VI



for some fine duets. Many fine musicians took turns for ten hours of solid music — just too many names to mention. Luella Wickham of Syracuse made the trip and Mr. and Mrs. William Klinger of the Dairyland chapter were sightseeing at Niagara and also attended. What a crowd, what a picnic, and many thanks to our fine host and hostess — the McDonalds.

In October, we had two concerts. Harvey Elsaesser, who had made many appearances at the Riviera, along with the big band sound of Cliff Car put on quite a show on October 2. Bill Langford made his first appearance at the Riviera on October 16 and we liked what we heard.

On November 3, Dennis James and the Singing Hoosiers were scheduled at the Riviera and November 20 should find Luella Wickham back after an absence of several years. If you want to hear theatre organ music like it really was, never pass up a chance to hear Luella.

It has been a tradition that Frank Olson play our December concert. Frank is an organist's organist. He takes a back seat to no one, equally at home playing a recital in a cathedral or playing theatre organ music to standing room only crowds in a theatre. He always remembers who he is playing for and knows what the crowd likes.

Our chapter members wish you all a Merry Christmas and our best wishes for the New Year.

STEVE CROWLEY

### NOR CAL

Nor Cal Chapter is still alive and well in the beautiful San Francisco Bay Area. Our chapter report has been missing from THEATRE ORGAN for some time due to the untimely passing of Dewey Cagle who for years had written our report. Though our chapter, and ATOS'ers throughout the country, will miss Dewey, we continue in our activities so that his work will not have gone for naught. Dewey was working towards the fulfillment of a long-held dream at the time of his passing — he was chairman of the 1975 ATOS National Convention Committee. Judd Walton has taken Dewey's place, and the entire chapter is determined to make the 1975 convention the best ever, in Dewey's memory.

Our 1974 activities began in March with an open console meeting at the Capn's Galley Pizza in Santa Clara. Among the many who entertained that afternoon was Ralph Trout III. This was to be the last time that this talented musician would play for a chapter function (see Closing Chords).

In April the chapter met at the Corpus Christi Church in Oakland, home of a beautiful style D Wurlitzer owned by the Pratt family. Gordon Pratt opened the afternoon with a brief but expertly executed concert, and was followed by a number of other ATOS'ers. May was the month of a special Nor Cal function — a joint effort of the chapter with the Avenue Photoplay Society brought Dennis and Heidi James to the Avenue Theatre. These young musicians gave a truly outstanding performance. The combination of Dennis at the Wurlitzer and Heidi at the Yamaha Grand was highly praised by all those in attendance. Dennis' playing for the film "Lilac Time" was smooth, effortless and precise, and truly belied his youth.

June brought us to the magnificent music studio in the home of Bob Chaney in Lafayette. The studio contains a marvelous array of memorabilia of the early 1900's which surround the 3 manual Wurlitzer console from George Wright's studio. The pipework comes from several different Wurlitzers. The featured artist for the afternoon was chapter chairman, Warren Lubich. Hearing his playing reaffirmed our belief that some of the finest theatre organists in the country surely must reside in the "Bay Area." Following the formal concert the Wurlit-



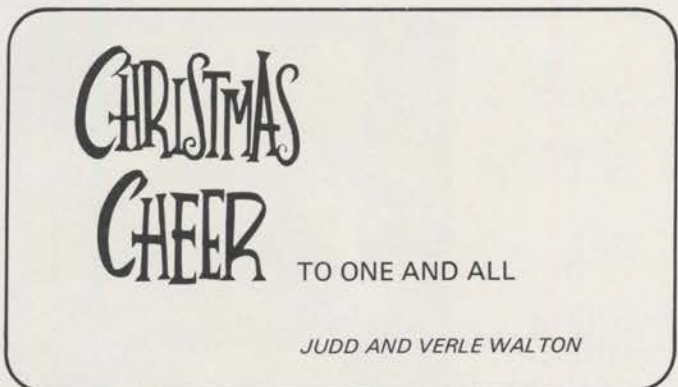
Christmas  
Greetings

CENTRAL OHIO THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY



Season's  
Greetings

NOR-CAL CHAPTER  
HOSTS FOR  
1975 A.T.O.S. CONVENTION



CHRISTMAS  
CHEER

TO ONE AND ALL

JUDD AND VERLE WALTON



Season's  
Greetings

Garden State  
Theatre Organ  
Society, Inc.

GARDEN STATE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY INC.  
A. T. O. S.



Chapter Chairman Warren Lubich with Dennis and Heidi James in front of a World War I ambulance that brought a contingent of "Theatre Organ Lovers" to the James' concert.

zer console was opened to all, as was the Conn electronic which Bob had provided for the afternoon. The Chaney organs, swimming pool and garden facilities were enjoyed by all.

Following the summer break we met in September for an open console session at one of the newer Bay Area pizza shops — the Thundermug in San Jose. Though the installation of its Wurlitzer was not yet completed, it was apparent that the Thundermug was destined to be a fine addition to

the pizza circuit. That's all for now, but don't forget San Francisco in '75!

#### NORTH TEXAS

The chapter has been "movin' on" despite Chairman Earl MacDonald's temporary confinement to the hospital for surgery on a finger he got tangled in a power saw. Mac's hand is coming along fine, and he should be able to play a full chord with it any time now. Meanwhile, the October meeting, which Mac had to miss due to the

surgery, went off fine under Lorena McKee's able guidance. A few matters of business, quickly transacted at 10 A.M. of a Sunday morning in the front rows of the Dallas Fine Arts Theatre, and we were off to a great cameo concert with Jerry Bacon as both artist and technician. Jerry has expanded this organ to a 27 rank "Bacon Special", with more additions as time goes on. Jerry played a program of pops from the theatre organ heydays and today. Before his concert, Jerry gave us an informative talk on the organ itself, including the trials and tribulations encountered in its acquisition and installation. Then, to further demonstrate the instrument's versatility, Lew Williams presented a classical concert terminating in a Bach Fugue. Lew's talents and the organ's capabilities provided a fine classical cameo.

Open console was then declared, with Pat Kohl, Mark Munzell, Jr. and several others demonstrating their talents. The theatre's opening for its regular Sunday presentations forced us to adjourn. Jerry has the organ in fine shape and is playing regular pre-movie, intermission and other concerts at the theatre. Thanks to you and the theatre management for having us over, Jerry.

By the time this appears in print, there will be several other organ

### Season's Greetings



TO  
ALL  
OUR  
ATOS  
FRIENDS



Jason and  
The Old Prospector

### Land O'Lakes Chapter

Extends

### Holiday Greetings

From

MINNESOTA



A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO THE THEATRE ORGAN  
WORLD AND FRIENDS  
from

NEW YORK  
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

### Season's Greetings

BOB  
MACK



happenings behind us in the area. Jim Peterson advises us that the new Landmark Pipes and Pizza will be open Nov. 15. Owner Dino Santrizos has arranged for Lew Williams to play the Jim Peterson-installed 3/11 Barton two nights a week. Another Fort Worth organist, Mary Miller, will play five evenings per week. Thus, any time the chapter members want to go hear some real theatre organ music, there'll be a real organist with lots of talent playing. With the Piano, Marimba, and Sleigh Bells that Jim has added to the original, there should be lots of beautiful music out of that Barton. Thanks, Dino for bringing the Pipes and Pizza to Dallas, and for your many courtesies to the North Texas Chapter of ATOS.

Incidentally, Jim Peterson has himself acquired an 11-rank Wurlitzer for installation in his own home. There's a guy that loves his work. After spending 12 to 20 hours a day, 7 days a week getting various commercial and church pipe organs operational, he wants to put one into his own home. In fact, he's buying a bigger house just to accommodate the organ. Let us know when you're ready, Jim, and there are plenty of chapter members ready to help. The organ Jim has originated in a theatre in New Haven, Connecticut, has been in a residence in

Lawrence, Kansas, since 1950 and now will come to Fort Worth, Texas as soon as Jim can find an opportunity to go pick it up.

Along the same lines, the Mark Munzells, senior and junior, have begun modification of their home to accommodate the recently - acquired Wurlitzer for their residence. Mark Jr., a teenager, displays much organ talent, having played several concerts and cameos for the chapter demonstrating his capabilities. Mark Sr. is a craftsman and electronics specialist, teaching Mark Jr. to follow in his footsteps, so they really make a good father and son team.

The next chapter meeting, scheduled for Fort Worth's Casa Manana at 2:30 P.M. on Nov. 17, will also be history when this appears. Several chapter organists will give cameos and we're inviting guests from various other organ groups to attend. We're getting toward the 40 - member mark and hope to exceed that pretty soon.

There is considerable theatre organ activity currently. Last we heard, former Chapter Chairman John Beck's instrument was nearing completion. There are also several other theatre organs either in warehouse, or in process of installation. Wonder how Gordon Wright's Capri theatre organ is fairing. Last we heard, Gordon was

building a new home to accommodate it.

The chapter Christmas Party is scheduled to be held at the Landmark Pipes and Pizza about the time this comes out in the magazine. Contact Lorena McKee, Earl MacDonald or any other chapter member for details.

This column would certainly be remiss if it did not mention the fine chapter news letter put out through the efforts of Jerry Bacon, editor and George Stucker, printer and publisher. "THE KERULAPHONE" (what, you never heard of THAT stop?) was a great success in its' first edition, and we are all looking forward to the next issue. The gang had nothing but favorable comment any time THE KERULAPHONE was mentioned. We'll have more info for you on chapter happenings in the next issue. Meanwhile, the chapter is very much alive and moving.

JOE KOSKI

## OREGON

The chapter's September meeting was held on the 29th at the residence of Bob and Laura Burke. The artist for the day was "Rob" York, age 19. This was Rob's first concert on pipes. He was the scholarship winner of the Portland Monday Musical Society theatre organ contest. He played our

**Jimmy  
Boyce**



Season's Greetings To All!

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Dennis Hedberg, chapter chairman, at the Ingram's 2/8 Wurlitzer. (Clyde V. Neuffer Photo)



"Rob" York at the Burkes' 3/12 Wurlitzer. (Claude V. Neuffer Photo)



Ray Brubacher at the Kline Residence Wurlitzer. (M. Hurley Photo)

concert on the Bob Burke 3/12 Wurlitzer. "Rob" did fine for his first "pipes" concert and we predict this young man will go a long way.

The October 19 chapter meeting was in the form of an open house at the home of Don and Arlene Ingram. There was no actual concert, just open organ and buffet table with liquid refreshment. Gerry Gregorius led off the music with a mini-concert, followed by Dennis Hedberg, chapter chairman, Dean LeMire, Ron Johnson and Don Ingram. Several other mem-

bers tried out the Ingram 2/8 Wurlitzer including Reba Payne, Terry Robson, Connie Hodges, Bert Hedderly and Duffy. A fun time was had by all.

DON INGRAM

#### POTOMAC VALLEY

Once again our September meeting was held at the Richard Kline residence. Although the weather was uncooperative (it poured!) almost 200 members turned out. Who would willingly miss a combination of Ray Brubacher and the Kline Wurlitzer?

Ray turned in one of the finest performances the chapter has yet to hear. It was evident that this is a concert Ray wanted to do and wanted to do well. And so he did. A little extra treat for our newer members was a "sound tour" through the Kline Wurlitzer. This allowed all to more fully appreciate the tonal capabilities of the instrument. Needless to say the sound of the Kline instrument is what every organ fan dreams of.

Concertwise our next occasion was held in October at the Lautzenheiser

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residence. We had been promised a double treat of Jean at the organ and GENII (Marvin's computer) at the circuits — but they even threw in a little extra (which is typical Lautzenheiser hospitality). There was a duet featuring Jean at the piano and her



Marvin Lautzenheiser and GENII — still another love. (M. Hurley Photo)



Jean and Granddaughter — two more of Marvin's loves. (M. Hurley Photo)

granddaughter at the organ! The Lautzenheisers have just completed a new recording with Jean and GENII, *Two Loves Have I* which is now available.

Technically speaking, we have had an informative session on "do it yourself" chest construction by veteran Lem Keller, whose Keller Special Organ is a fine installation full of Lem's innovative ideas. Another session

slated for November brings forth knowledgeable Bob Oberlander discussing pipes, voicing and tonal design.

We're looking forward to two more concerts before this active year ends. The first will bring us Hector Olivera and in December, Jimmy Boyce. This will make a grand total of 13 concert meetings this year for the chapter.

In addition, our chapter has enjoyed the benefit of 11 educational sessions besides producing and adopting a new set of by-laws. Our natural enthusiasm has caused us to grow to over 300 members!

Potomac Valley Chapter members wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ROY WAGNER

## PUGET SOUND

The Puget Sound Chapter held a home tour afternoon on Sunday, September 15. Installations visited and heard were those of Tom Endresen (a 3 manual Robert Morton from San Francisco's Empire Theatre), Bill and Mary Carson (3/17 Wurlitzer) and the Jack Becvar's 2 manual Wurlitzer from Seattle's late Blue Mouse Theatre. Each installation featured a local organist, followed by open console sessions for chapter members. A general chapter business meeting preceded the

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February 10, 11 — Casa Loma Castle, Toronto, Canada  
March 8 — Roberson Center, Binghamton, New York  
March 15 — Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio

Additional Dates still available.

CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR DETAILS



afternoon, held at the Haller Lake Clubhouse, home of the chapter's 3/8 Wurlitzer-Marr & Colton.

Featured artist for the October meeting was Gunnar Anderson, performing at the 2/10 Wurlitzer in the Mount Baker Theatre in Bellingham on Sunday, October 20. Preceding the concert was the final business meeting of the year, where election of 1975 officers was held. A great many of our Canadian members were present and gave further information of the program to restore the Wurlitzer in the Vancouver Orpheum Theatre, currently being used as a performing arts center.

Gunnar's concert was well attended by both ATOS members as well as a large number of the public from the Bellingham area. His program consisted of several light classics which put the tonal resources of the Wurlitzer to excellent use. Gunnar certainly used the organ as it was meant to be used, utilizing the various orchestral voices as they would be used in an orchestra. He was extremely active in music in the past, being organist for the Beverly Hills Hotel, Fox Movietone Studios, Universal Studios, as well as making many recordings of spiritual music for use aboard navy vessels in addition to playing frequent organ concerts in the

California area. He now lives in Bellingham and plays weekly organ concerts over a local radio station, utilizing both the Mt. Baker Wurlitzer and the Conn electronic organ in his beautiful studio. ATOS members were invited to his studio after the concert to see, hear and play the organ as well as view his enviable collection of antiques.

Two more theatre organs have left the area recently, the 2/8 Wurlitzer in the Ridge Rink (to a residence in Bremerton) and the large 3 manual Kimball in the Seattle Pacific College to a buyer in Portland. The chapter is looking forward to the opening of another Pizza and Pipes restaurant, this one to be located in Tacoma. The organ chosen is the Balaban 3 (with additions) originally installed in the Ft. Wayne, Indiana Paramount Theatre. It is currently undergoing rebuilding and restoration for installation. Chapter members Dick and Margaret Daubert are the owners of this fine organ.

TERRY L. HOCHMUTH

#### SOUTHERN ARIZONA


"Presenting Miss Donna Parker" was the high point of Southern Arizona's activity for this year; not a

regular meeting, but a little special activity put on by Donna while on a pre-college trip prior to her entry into Cal Poly, Pomona Campus. Donna and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Parker, were on their way to Roswell, New Mexico for a special performance for the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Military Institute, and stopped in Tucson on September 8.

The Los Angeles Chapter shares the honor with Southern Arizona Chapter of Donna's membership, and after several years of waiting, her fellow members here were treated to what




Donna Parker played the Seamands' Conn for Southern Arizona members.



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those in L.A. get to hear quite often. How those reeds sang! Seamands' 650 Conn and pipe speakers got a real workout. During her trip Donna also played Bill Brown's Wurlitzer in the Phoenix "Organ Stop Pizza Parlor." This young lady does get around!!

The Detroit Convention was attended by the Crosby's, by one of our honorary members, Lon Hanagan of New York City, and Phoenix, Arizona, by the High's, by Ann Montgomery whose home base is Yuma, Arizona, and by our international member, David Pitts of New Castle, NSW, Australia. David performed at the Cameos, and at the Seamands, Lois and Larry, of Tucson.

This reporter believes that we have a first — an international member. ATOS-National went international this last July while we gained our member in May. Does any other chapter have a similar member?

Our third regular meeting of the year was held on the 6th of October at the home of Dorothy and Walter Stadler. Over 50 attended. The business included a discussion on locations for a tentative theatre pipe organ site, and a committee was formed by our chairman, Estelle Binder, which included Arthur Crowell, Bea and Rudy Kotasek, Anna and Ray Rodig, and Dorothy and Walter Stadler. The pro-

gram that followed featured selections by Bob High, Lois Seamands, Kathy Stadler, and Janice Owens and then ended a piano-organ duet performed by Janice on piano and Kathy on her new Conn 650 playing the "Theme from the Apartment". A buffet and open console followed.

Our final meeting of the year will be held on December 1, a Sunday, at the home of the Robert Owens with a program on Janice's new Conn 651. I will mention our first meeting to be held in 1975, the first Sunday in February, should any of you "Snowbirds" be in Tucson that day and might want to attend. Contact either our chairman, Estelle Binder, (nee Weiss), Helen Bowers (Mrs. Morris Bowers), Arthur Crowell, Ralph Cloos, Kenneth Fields, Bob High or Rudy Kotasek for directions to that meeting. It is requested that notice of a week or so be given, if possible, so that the menu for the buffet may be planned.

BOB HIGH

#### SOUTH FLORIDA

What was almost as good as going to the Notable Nineteenth in Detroit? An evening reviewing the sounds of the Convention, courtesy of Ralph

Anderson and his fabulous tape recorder plus the records which some of our members brought back. It was fun to watch the "open-mouthed" disbelief of those who were unfamiliar with the artistry of Hector, Dennis and Heidi, and others. That was just the start of the evening. All present enjoyed Ralph's Rodgers Trio deluxe with its knotty-pine console. The surprise of the evening was provided by John Scot when he sat down and set us back on our ears with his arrangements of *Maple Leaf Rag* and a medley from "Jesus Christ, Superstar." Other enjoyable moments were provided by the duo of Art Venecia and Betty Lee Taylor at the piano and console, respectively. John Scot and Walter Walker made another duo later on in the evening. At the end of the evening, Bob and Vivian André invited us to come over and check the progress on their Wurlitzer installation. Some of our fledgling members had their very first organ crawl that night, in addition to sitting down in front of all those "teeth." John Scot provided us with several more hours of listening pleasure. One fifteen A.M. found us reluctantly putting the lush sounds to

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bed and leaving André Hall to the echoes.

Our second post-summer treat was provided by Hal Stanton through the courtesy of Overbrook Pianos and Organs. Allen introduced "The Music Scene," their new computer theatre organ. Hal and Stan Hyer demonstrated its many capabilities and then invited the members to give it a try. The afternoon came to an end with John Scot on the "The Music Scene" and Dennis Allred at the console of the Allen 601 which had been "re-programmed" in theatre style. It was a great afternoon which was followed up by what is hoped to be the start of a great tradition: finishing the day at André Hall. (Would you believe, even roller skating to pipe organ music by some of our members?!) Thanks, Vivian and Bob, for your generosity to the South Florida members.

BOBBIE LITZINGER

## WOLVERINE

Sunday, September 15, found the members of the Wolverine Chapter at the Troy home of Mert and Rita Harris. Their 3/11 Wurlitzer was in fine form for an all afternoon open console session for all attending. The organ was originally installed in the Paramount Theatre in Glen Falls, New York, and has the distinction of being one of the last Wurlitzers ever built for installation in this country. The installation is quite obviously a work of Mert's — his other love being the 3/13 Barton in the Royal Oak Theatre.

The meeting was somewhat of a milestone, as, not only did we persuade Lucille Mitchell to get up and



A surprised Lucille Mitchell at the console of the Mert Harris residence 3/11 Wurlitzer. (L.G. Mallett Photo)



Sue Mumbroe watches as husband Roger presides at the console of his 3/19 Marr and Colton. (L.G. Mallett Photo)

play in her beautiful style, but we were even able to sneak in and snap a shot of her.

Our October 20 meeting found us at the Bloomfield Hills residence of Roger and Sue Mumbroe, to see, hear and play one of Detroit's finest home installations. Roger has constructed a

3/19 Marr & Colton over the past several years. He has had literally dozens of ranks through his chamber, selecting just the right ones to represent each tonal family. As well as the Marr & Colton parts, there are several Barton, Morton, and even some Gottfried parts in the organ. The huge chamber from which the organ speaks acts somewhat as a mixing area, so as to prevent the harsh, raucous sound so often common in large home installations.

Some of Wolverine's polished professionals were in rare form at the Mumbroe console, such as Rodney Davis, who left most of us with our chins on the floor watching some of his tremendous digital feats. Bravo, Rodney!

It is indeed a rare treat to hear Roger Mumbroe play his own organ, however, Chairman Lawrie Mallett persuaded Roger to play a few selections, and very nicely, we might add. We thank the Harrises and the Mumbroes for providing us with their homes, their organs and their gracious hospitality.

SCOTT S. SMITH

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