props, a costume and a beautiful girl to enhance his music.

On January 15, 1975 Paul had just concluded a lecture at UCLA on music scoring for movies and was leaving the stage. He fell and was seemingly knocked unconscious. He was rushed to Cedars of Lebanon hospital where he died next day without regaining consciousness, apparently of a stroke. He was 50 years of age. On the following Sunday a memorial get-together was held at the home of organist Candi Carley. It attracted the "who's who" in the southern California organ scene. It wasn't a tearful affair, just a chance to talk about Paul with his friends in surroundings which would have pleased him. His mother and father were present and their stoic composure set the mood for the evening. Still, there was a great sense of loss because Paul Beaver was one of those rare persons who was universally liked, even by those who didn't fully understand "the man of quiet countenance . . . an inner man with a jazz soul, a nonconformist, an iconoclast," as he was once described by the late Ruth Carson.

Paul Beaver never had a bad word for anyone and he never made others feel uncomfortable in the presence of his remarkable intellect. He was quiet but deep, and always a joy to be with.

Like others overtaken prematurely by death, Paul left a number of projects undone, among them an unfinished recording, his fourth with Bernie Krausse. Bernie plans to complete it as a paean to Paul's memory. Less definite is the eventual fate of the Estey straight organ Paul had stashed to install in his Los Angeles home.

Paul left his own requiem, the brooding, moody music in his *Perchance to Dream*, album.

Stu Green

M. Herbert Eisenhart, 90, Rochester philanthropist and former board chairman of Bausch & Lomb, died January 7.

In 1971, he and Mrs. Eisenhart donated \$525,000 to the Rochester Museum and Science Center. This sum was used to transform the former Columbia School gymnasium into a 401-seat auditorium where a 3/8 Wurlitzer is being installed by the Rochester Theatre Organ Society. The auditorium was dedicated in September 1974, and it is hoped the organ will be playing by the end of 1975.



CENTRAL INDIANA

Home tours always attract people. The January meeting was unique in that it was not only a home tour, but also a tour of Marian College. Because two of the most stately mansions in all Indianapolis are a part of the campus, located on 114 acres of a beautifully rolling and wooded section of northwest Indianapolis, this meeting attracted about 125 members and guests. The historical background, the architecture, the magnificent interior decorating and exhibits of art were appealing to music and art lovers alike.

The Stokely mansion was built in Mediterranean style in 1914, featuring lavish inlaid wooden floors, pink and white magnolias, and an authentic oriental garden surrounding a Japanese Teahouse. The home is now used for the Music Department and has a large electronic Wurlitzer classical organ.

The Allison mansion was built 1911-1914 by the founder of Allison Engineering Company, now a Division of General Motors. European craftsmen were imported to carve the wood and stone both inside and outside, and this building now houses the Art Department.

The Music Room of the Allison mansion is sunken, of white mahogany and runs the length of the house. A rare Aeolian pipe organ was installed when the home was built, at an estimated cost of \$30,000, and was the feature attraction of this room. The pipes, which were two stories high, were concealed behind a handcarved wooden screen. The organ is now in the College Chapel in Marian Hall and is still used regularly. The original console remains at the west end of the Music Room and the ornate screen that concealed the pipes is still intact.

At the conclusion of the tour, our business meeting and program were

held in the Chapel where a most interesting program was presented by two of our members. Emcele Masbaum, one of our newest members and a graduate of Marian College, played two classical selections on the 3 manual, 42 rank Aeolian organ. Then Tim Needler demonstrated the romantic tones with several improvisations.

An occasional all classical program is a delight to some of our members, since quite a number have classical backgrounds, and some are accomplished in both theatrical and classical stylings.

Refreshments were served by the College. We wish to extend our thanks to the staff members of Marian College who conducted the tour and to those who prepared and served refreshments to our group. It was truly a delightful and different meeting.

Two unusual meetings, back to back, have gotten our chapter off to a good start under the leadership of Chairman Ross Kirkpatrick. February's meeting was hosted by Tess and Les Moses. Our hostess and her organ teacher, Mildred Taggart, arranged a most interesting program. She played a special arrangement of Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2, then Mildred and Tess played an organ duet Song of Love. Both performed beautifully. On the lighter side, and for a little fun, Tess played quite a group of old time favorites to test our ability to recognize and name them. Gene Dottery, organist at St. Andrews Catholic Church in Indianapolis, a guest, favored us with Bach's Prelude in C Major (and promises to do the Fugue another time). Open console followed, but it turned out to be a more unscheduled program. Tim Needler played Cabaret and Roller Coaster, and one of our very young new members, Chuck Owens, a high school student, played a medley. Chuck is an excellent young organist and we were delighted with his contribution to our program.

The Moses' DeLuxe Serenade Model Conn, with electronic pipes, adapted beautifully to both the classical and theatrical numbers. We thank Peg Roberts and Mary Drake, social co-chairmen for 1975, for the delicious refreshments served following an enjoyable meeting.

DAVID D. WARD

CENTRAL OHIO

The Port Columbus International Airport NEWS-GUIDE featured a picture of the interior of the Ohio Theatre with the Robert Morton in prominence on the cover page of the January 3 edition. Within the paper is a picture of Dennis James at the Morton with the announcement of his appointment as house organist. There also appeared a feature story with the history of the Ohio Theatre from origin to present date. The LAN-TERN, the official paper of Ohio State University, published similar material. Excellent advertising for our interests.

The newly formed Miami Valley Theatre Organ Society in the Dayton-Springfield, Ohio area rate our congratulations. Many of our members appeared at the State Theatre in Springfield on Saturday morning, January 11, to hear the 3/7 Wurlitzer and the mini-concert featuring Chris Gorsuch who accompanied the film "The Great Train Robbery" with his own musical score. The program in-

cluded a sing-along and the movie "Hot Sports". Projection was in the capable hands of David Marshall. For a beginning chapter, Miami Valley is off and running.

We enjoyed a double feature at our January meeting. Dinner at Presutti's Villa where we enjoyed the piano music of Bill Vlasak (who is equally talented with the pipe organ). We also enjoyed the company of Betty Mason and John Fischer, chairman of the Motor City Chapter, who were in town for the Lee Erwin-Gloria Swanson program at the Ohio Theatre the following evening. It was our pleasure to have Lee Erwin with us plus our artist for the evening, Lowell Riley and Mrs. Riley. Following dinner we met at the 1st Community Church where the church organist, Lowell Riley, described the 4/61 Moller and proved himself and the organ versatile with theatre organ music. Several members took advantage of open console. Our appreciation of Dennis James mounts with exposure to him. His command of the Moller was admirable. We are also becoming acquainted with Dennis James the business man, partly through his appointment as Program Chairman for our Regional Convention here next November.

Fifty members and guests (who became members by the end of the meeting) signed the register at our February meeting hosted by the writer and her husband.

The organ is a 651 Conn with additional Leslie primarily flutes plus reeds and strings predominant from a



Fred Lewis, Jr. Concert artist at the February meeting. (Photo courtesy of Bob Shaw)

stereo speaker. Concert artist for the evening was Fred Lewis, Jr. Fred holds a Bachelor of Performing Arts degree and has given both classical and theatre organ concerts. His program was prepared to offer a variety of selections including Doll Dance and Charade. To add a festive aura to Fred's keyboard artistry, he was resplendant in a white satin suit. Appreciation of his concert was very evident.

A lot of fun was added to the evening with piano and organ duets with Heidi and Dennis James. The organ was in constant use. COTOS has

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an abundance of talented playing members. Even unexpected talent showed up when Jim Blegen's dog, Tanya, accompanied Dennis as he played *The Whistler and his Dog*, by barking on cue.

The dollar movies at the Ohio Theatre have begun with a series of mystery movies starting with "Laura" and "The Thin Man". The house lights dim, the organ sounds, rises slowly and there is Dennis James wearing his Sherlock Holmes sleuthing hat. Plans at the Ohio Theatre are to increase the use of old movies when the theatre is available. The Morton is now in frequent use and if you are travelling in the Columbus area, your chances of hearing the organ are very good.

We hope all members will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of ATOS by attending the National Convention in San Francisco in July AND the Regional Convention in Columbus November 7, 8 and 9.

IRENE BELGEN

CHICAGO AREA

While no CATOE public concerts were held in 1975 until the March 19 appearance of Dennis and Heidi James at the Oriental Theatre, the group has been active.

On February 9 Tom Gnaster played for the monthly social, this one being CATOE's second visit to Temple Sholom. Gnaster's program included music probably not heard at that synagogue before. But Varsity Drag and Someday My Prince Will Come fit because they sounded good on the organ, a 4/34 Wurlitzer installed in 1929. The console is semi-horseshoe with a dropped music rack and the stop list is theatrical including Tibia Clausa and Tibia Plena. Hostess Helen Near and Host Val Escobar presided over cake and coffee while Tony and Lilian Sykora handled the new record sales counter. Tom Gnaster is scheduled to play the Riviera Theatre, N. Tonawanda, N.Y., on April 16.

On that same night Rick Shindell will be at Downers Grove North High School playing the CATOE installed and maintained Wurlitzer at a benefit show for the American Field Service.

In March CATOE was scheduled to join the Land of Lincoln Chapter for a joint social with the Dairyland Chapter, at the invitation of Chairman John Hill, to hear Walt Strony play the



Harold Turner at the WGN studio pipe organ before the console was refinished in off-white for use on television. (WGN Photo)

Milwaukee Avalon Theatre Wurlitzer.
CATOE's charter flight to the
ATOS convention in San Francisco
had over 125 reservations by March 1.
Full details were in the February
THEATRE ORGAN

(As we go to press, all reservations have been filled and there are nine on standby. Editor.)

Since the New Year's Eve "sneak preview" of the Chicago theatre Wurlitzer by Walt Strony, work has continued there. Paul Swiderski, assistant organist at the Elm Skating Club, has let other patrons hear the sound by playing before the movie starts on Sunday mornings.

Harold Turner, staff organist at WGN Radio and Television, retired on January 3. He was feted at an informal party hosted by CATOE member John Wagner, also an employee of WGN. Turner joined WGN as staff pianist in 1934. From 1943 to 1945 he served in the Navy but returned upon his discharge to become staff organist following the tenures of Len Salvo and Preston Sellers.

For years Turner was heard on "Pipe Dreams," a Sunday morning program which he opened and closed with Dream played on the distinctive Tibias of the pipe organ in WGN's Studio 3. The organ is a 3/11 Kimball-Wurlitzer which has been a part of WGN since the twenties. In recent years the organ was used for solos on a regular Sunday music program, but recently has only been used for a religious program with Dr. Robert Lodine playing. CATOE hopes to be holding a social at WGN shortly at the invitation of Executive Vice-President Alexander Field. CATOE wishes Harold Turner a pleasant and healthful retirement after long years of keeping the sound of theatre organ alive in Chicago, "Theatre Organ Capitol of the World."

"Bill Rieger reports that the Grand Opening of the Chicago Wurlitzer will be delayed until October due to some wiring and cable rearrangements required by the Chicago Fire Department."

RICHARD J. SKLENAR

CONNECTICUT VALLEY

We began 1975 auspiciously with a concert by John Muri at Thomaston Opera House on January 25. This charming gentleman gave us a fascinating evening of fine music, beautifully arranged, and interspersed with delightful comments and anecdotes.

The selections were from a repertoire of long span, carefully chosen to comprise a most entertaining sampler of organ music.

The first half of the program consisted of popular music often heard in the theatre through the years of motion picutres with live stage shows, also "John Muri's Singing Lesson," a group of song slides with organ accompaniment for community singing. Some interesting original slides from years ago, from Mr. Muri's personal collection, inspired great vocal response from the Opera House audience.

A printed program was a welcome item that has, on occasions, been missing from our Opera House presentations.

The second half of the program included light classics, old time fav-

orites and Pacific 231.

A short motion picture, usually from several decades back, with organ accompaniment by the evening's artist, is not unusual in today's theatre organ concerts. Mr. Muri, however, treated us to a short movie of recent production which was shown at the 1947 Cannes Film Festival. Entitled "Pacific 231," by itself the film would have been fairly interesting, consisting, as it does, of camera-eye views from the running gear of a high speed French steam passenger locomotive. As accompanied by John Muri playing the fantastic score he created for the film, it was sensational.

This was a captivating concert of excellent variety, artistically played and spiced with subtly humorous commentary.

On February 8 we had our first meeting of the year. It was also the first under the leadership of our new officers.

The hours 3:00 - 6:00 P.M. were for open console at Bethwood, home of Vice Chairman Harold Weaver and Program Chairman Eleanor Weaver, in Bethany Ct.

After dinner, the chapter business meeting was held. This took place in an empty, small store adjacent to the Civic Center in Waterbury. Use of the small store was necessitated by the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra's use of the Civic Theatre for an evening concert this date.

Following the business meeting an interesting technical session on organs was conducted. Peter Piliero, Don Hyde and Ev Bassett were the professors. It was a good session with ample time devoted to questions and answers.

From 10:00 to 10:45 P.M., we celebrated the 14th anniversary of the chapter with delicious cake and coffee and reminiscences of past activities. At 10:45 P.M. we did forsake the store for the comfort, spaciousness, and elegance of the Civic Theatre where the concert portion of the day's program took place. Three past participants in our scholarship program and Everett Bassett were the performing artists. Marc Basso (age 12), Duane Boise and Bob Carangelo each played three selections; all were well received. Finally Everett Bassett sat at the console of the 2/10 Wurlitzer that he restored to playable condition almost single-handedly and has maintained these past years. Ev played an ap-

APRIL, 1975

- - - FREE - - -

The Organ Literature Foundation has just issued a new supplement to Catalog G Part Two. This supplement is available free of charge to readers of THEATRE ORGAN.

Write to them at Braintree, Massachusetts 02184.

propriate program of eight selections from the lush years of vaudeville and theatre organ. He prepared well for the occasion and the result was a fitting theatre organ musical finale to the observance of our 14th year.

DAIRYLAND

On December 8, the Schnitzelhaus Restaurant was the setting for the final board meeting of the 1974 year. A general membership meeting followed and at this time officers for 1975 were elected. John Hill is again to be at the reins of our "herd." Greg Filardo is taking over the position of vice chairman vacated by Pete Charnon. The new secretary is Louise Dove, who by the way is the only female member of the board. The treasurers slot again will be handled by Robert Leutner, whose famous last words are always, "Get your dues in early." The remaining board members are Fred Dove, Rick Johnson, Fred Hermes Jr., and John (Curt) Pippenger. Fred Hermes Sr. will continue on as the overseer of a most difficult task of setting up monthly socials. Jim Brill has volunteered to be the new editor of the BARTOLA. He replaces Pete Charnon who did a great job during his editorship.

After a short but productive business meeting, Gary Sette entertained members at the 3/14 Wurlitzer. Gary is truly a versatile organist who can play a whole range of songs from 1920's ragtime to songs made popular by such groups as "Chicago." Gary invited those wishing to try the organ to do so. A few tried the organ and more fine music was enjoyed by all.

The January 12 meeting of DTOS was held through the courtesy of the Land of Lincoln Chapter at the First Congregational Church of Whitewater, Wisconsin. Veteran theatre organist Bob Coe played many "oldies but goodies" and much to the delight of everyone present, Bob opened the big four manual instrument for anyone who wanted to play.

For a change of pace, the February meeting was held at Jensens Res-

taurant in Kenosha, Wisconsin, where Jim Brill plays the Hammond H-100. Most of Jim's selections were taken from his just released record, *Just Jimmy*, which was recorded on the Hammond X-66. Again the members were offered open console and several succeeded at putting the Hammond through its paces.

The March 16 meeting is scheduled to be an inter-chapter meeting at the Avalon Theatre in Milwaukee from two to four in the afternoon. Walt Strony from CATOE is to be the featured artist. This instrument has been the main club project in recent years and again, some pretty exciting concerts are in the offing this year. Stan Kann will play the 3/8 Wurlitzer on April 8 (complete with a 61 note rank of vacuum cleaner celestes). Stan says it took years of intense study to get this rank properly voiced. Stan is bringing this rank direct from his home in St. Louis. On June 3 Hector Olivera will perform at the Avalon. Anyone interested in these concerts should contact the Dairyland Theatre Organ Society for further information. This is just the beginning of what should prove to be the biggest year yet for the "herd" from Americas' Dairyland.

FRED HERMES, JR.

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

The new year began with a program schedule designed to please the most ardent buffs.

On January 25, the Babson Tea Party emceed by Nick Lupo was a resounding success — some 14 keyboard artists playing their own distinctive arrangements of *Tea For Two* for first prize. Since choosing the winners would have been almost impossible, the names of the contestants were drawn impartially from a hat. Impartiallity was questioned when newly elected President Arthur Goggin drew booby prize.

On the following day, Sunday afternoon, January 26, John Phipps and Carrie Garber's refreshment gang hosted true theatre organ buffs who found their way to the Somerville Baptist Church. The 3/10 Wurlitzer cooperated beautifully with all who played it. There was ample opportunity for indulgence to complete satisfaction. Sociability was most pleasant, contributing to a wonderful afternoon.

On February 8 another field trip was arranged, this one to the Columbus Theatre, Providence, RI, where former members of this chapter and their friends have banned together to form Southeastern New England Theatre Organ Society. They have resurrected a magnificent 2/6 Wurlitzer in an impeccably preserved smaller-butnot-less-pretentious palatial wonder of elegance of the '20s. This rare opportunity to play a real theatre organ in its original habitat was impossible to resist. Members who never play the organ at regular chapter meetings played this time. Hosts for the occasion made everyone welcome and feel right at home. Thanks to the Ed Alves family, Alan Goodnow and all.



Allen Miller after recording bash with Boston Audio Society. (Preston Miller Photo)

On February 22 Allen Miller concertized on the chapter organ at Babson College for a recording bash to the delight of Boston Audio Society members and Eastern Mass. Chapter and guests. The scene was a forest of various type short and tall stands with microphones perched on top. Allen Miller was seated at the console in the front of the auditorium, squarely in the middle of the forest. The tape recording hobbyists were seated at tables around the edges of the forest, their bulbous earphones in place, hunching over their equipment - interconnecting cable all over the place!

Being very familiar with difficulties in faithfully recording pipe organ in full dynamic range, Allen began by playing several finale-type full organ chords for recording level setting, and promptly turned around facing the audience saying words of the effect, "I have enjoyed playing for you, and you have been a wonderful audience." Before audience laughter had subsided, Allen was into his first number, Say It With Music. He played a varied and colorful program of oldies from Broadway and the movies sprinkled with contemporary selections like Lyn Larsen's beautiful melody, There's A Place In My Heart For You. Like all other Allen Miller concerts, this one was characterized by meticulously chosen arrangements and stop registrations.

ERLE RENWICK

GARDEN STATE

The December meeting of Garden State Chapter was held at the Montvale Skating Rink, Montvale, N.J. This is the only roller skating rink in the area that can boast of a pipe organ. The eight rank Robert Morton which is used daily, was originally placed in the Palace Theatre in Bergenfield, N.J. It was removed in 1950 and put in storage until 1969 when it was acquired by the rink. Formal dedication took place in October 1970 with Al De Luca concertizing. The white and gold trimmed console was placed on a raised platform high above the skaters. The toy counter and swell shades are painted bright psychedelic colors.

Disregarding the inclement weather, (it was a dreary, wet December day) members attended the meeting and enjoyed two hours of open console. They applauded the organists who not only were brave enough to perform, but also had to climb a steep ladder to reach the console.

The high point of the meeting was a demonstration of roller skating by the Montvale Figure Skating Club accompanied on the pipe organ by Al De Luca, house organist. Al's varied registrations and changing tempos, all carefully monitored by the metronome, enabled the dancing skaters to perform flawlessly.

A meeting followed in which the names of the newly elected officers were announced. As members left they were greeted by the early arrivals of children of all ages eager to don skates and roll to the mighty pipe organ sound.

On Friday January 17, 1975, the chapter held its annual dinner meeting for the installation of new officers at the former Stanley Theatre, Newark, New Jersey, now the "Casa Italiana,"

the Italian Cultural Center affiliated with Seton Hall University. This is a beautiful "atmospheric" theatre with a Mighty 3/11 Wurlitzer. The theatre interior features an evening blue sky with twinkling stars and drifting fluffy white clouds. The proscenium and walls give the feeling of a charming Mediterranean villa with marble columns and statuary. The rear half of the auditorium has been raised and floored level with the entrance fover, providing a garden-like dining area, complete with a trellaced band stand. What a glamorous and delightful setting for the evenings festivities!

House organist, Bill Gage opened the musical evening with a program that included many of the gay Italian melodies so popular with the regular "Casa" patrons.



Five young performers: (l. to r.) Rick De Karski, Ronnie Stout, Dave Kopp, (background) Tim Hoag and Peter Schryner.

During the delicious buffet dinner, we were entertained by five talented younger organists; Richard DeKarski, Dave Kopp, Ronnie Stout, Peter Schryver and Tim Hoag, each playing a concert-in-miniature on the big Wurlitzer. Their talent and musicianship was attested to by the tribute of applause from the more than one hundred attending members and guests.

The organ was given a brief rest while the new officers were installed: Irving Light — chairmen, Frank Germain — vice chairman and Roy Frenzke — secretary/treasurer.

A very surprised and charming Virginia Messing was given a gleaming brass Wurlitzer Trumpet pipe by outgoing Chairman Bob Balfour as a token of appreciation from our chapter for her untiring work and legal advice that secured our tax exempt status from the IRS in record time. Bob Balfour appeared speechless for probably the first time anyone can remember when he too was awarded a Wurlitzer brass Trumpet by new Chairman Irving Light. The award inscription reads, "To Bob Balfour, Charter Chairman of Garden State Theatre Organ Society, in appreciation of his exceptional leadership in establishing the Garden State Chapter."



Virginia Messing, GSTOS attorney, receives an inscribed brass trumpet from outgoing Chairman Bob Balfour.

Also recognized and given appreciative applause were Jinny Vanore, editor of PEDALS AND PIPES and Aaron Messing, financial advisor, for their many continuing contributions.

Professional organist Patti Germain, (and wife of our vice-chairman, Frank Germain) led off the open console that followed. Also tooting the Tibias were Glen Haugh and two very small youngsters, students of Rick DeKarski.

Reluctantly, Walter Froehlich — general manager of the Casa Italiana and outgoing vice-chairman of GSTOS, signaled the close of the festivities. We left the warm Italian Riviera atmosphere with its twinkling stars, pulled our coat collars about our ears and reentered the real world of a New Jersey winter. It seemed less harsh because of the evenings warm afterglow.

IRVING LIGHT

LOS ANGELES

On January 19th the chapter staged a Helen Dell concert at the Wiltern theatre. It was a bright Sunday morning (always rough competition for indoor events) but a sizeable crowd greeted Helen as the 4/37 Kimball



IN HAPPIER DAYS. Paul Beaver (right) and Helen Dell congratulate Stan Kann after his concert at The Los Angeles Wiltern Theatre a few seasons back. (Stufata)

console soared up into the spotlight with a rousing march, Rapaz Band. Then Helen made the announcement which would color the remainder of her concert — a good friend of the organ and of many chapterites had died suddenly the day before and Helen's concert would be dedicated to his memory. Paul Beaver's story is told elsewhere in this issue. The Dell concert was a fitting memorial.

Helen's program was spiced with variety, ranging from a mod If to a non-Joplin Cum Bac Rag, from a patriotic The Flag's Still There, Mr.

Key to Variations and Fanfare by concert organist Richard Purvis. Ballads included Soft Lights and Sweet Music and You've Changed. Novelty tunes were Churchmouse on a Spree and a dirty, lowdown Natural Man.

Helen's easy going MC'ing, her lowpitched, sensual microphone voice and her two costume changes enhanced the fine showmanship and quality musical offerings. Her closer was an almost forgotten, but top quality march by Eric Coates, Oxford Street from his London Again Suite.

Ramona Gerhard Sutton, who played our concert at the Wiltern Theatre on Sunday morning, February 16th, is a very special kind of artist, just as it says on the jacket of her recent album, Christmas With Ramona.

From her dramatic opening with Eddie Dunstedter's Open Your Eyes, to her closing theme, Ramona, this tall, stately lady with the bun on her head was in complete command of the 4/37 Kimball and her captivated audience. Being an extremely versatile musician, she is equally at home with Gershwin or Bach, and proved it with her own arrangements of Rhapsody in Blue and Toccata in D Minor followed with a beautiful rendition of Liebestraum, the latter a last minute tribute to the man on the big spotlight in the projection booth.

Having been in semi-retirement in Southern California since her daily pipe organ interludes on KNX-CBS, this was Ramona's first appearance for local ATOS members.



Wife "Spud" and Joe Koons welcome Ramona's husband, Bob Sutton, and Ramona to the chapter's post-concert jam session at Joe's cycle shop.

(Bob Hill Photo)



Part of the jam session audience listening to Ramona play Joe Koons' organ. This seating area is normally wall-to-wall motorcycles. The three chambers are behind the listeners. (Bob Hill Photo)

The jam session was held on this Sunday at Joe Koons' Motorcycle Shop in Long Beach and Ramona was there with husband Bob Sutton to brighten the musical picture. She enjoyed playing Joe's 3/34 theatre organ.

BOB HILL

MOTOR CITY

Our monthly Second Sunday open house at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor on January 12 featured Wolverine member Sam Lam at the 3/13 Barton. Special guests were members of the Wolverine Chapter. These Second Sunday get-togethers are attracting an increasing number of area residents, lured by the pipe organ sound; a real compliment to our conscientious Ann Arbor contingent.

Member Dave Brewer played the Ann Arbor Barton for our February 9 Second Sunday event. More than 70 people enjoyed the program as well as the open console and refreshments that followed.

The Kiddie Matinee at the Redford Theatre on January 18-19 was taken in stride by our members, many of whom are now old pros when it comes to dispensing candy or quelling a juvenile disturbance. It all comes with practice, not unlike trying to master the theatre pipe organ, which is often heard at the beginning and during intermissions at these family matinees.

On Saturday evening, January 25, we celebrated our tenth anniversary as a chapter of ATOS with a banquet on the stage of the Redford Theatre. For those members lucky enough to obtain one of the 150 reservations (limited only by the seating capacity of the Redford stage), the event was a glittering salute to our ten enthusiastic years of theatre organ involvement in the Detroit area.

The banquet was actually held in our eleventh year, postponed from 1974 by the many convention activities and other chapter projects. The organizational meeting was held on October 15, 1964 at the home of Al and Betty Mason, when our national organization had the unweildy name of the American Association of Theatre Organ Enthusiasts, and we became chapter number 24.

All evidence of current restoration had temporarily vanished, as members entered the Redford Theatre the night of the banquet. A mirrored ball twinkled over round cloth-covered tables, set with real silverware and flowers, snugly arranged against a gold curtain backdrop on the Redford stage. Large foil letters, proclaiming our 10th Anniversary, hung from a batton overhead.

Thanks to Alice Falletich and Doloris Frank, banquet co-chairmen, the evening unfolded with clockwork precision. Herb Head, Greg Smith and Harry Bunnell provided dinner music at the 3/10 Barton. After dinner, a grand march led people up the aisle, through the projection booth and concluded in the off-stage dressing rooms. Rupert Otto furnished the music for both the grand march and for dancing on the stage, once the tables had been cleared.

Honored guests at the banquet were Fred Pellerito, business manager for Community Theatres, and his wife.

In an effort to make certain the public would know of our work in Detroit, and especially of our new home, the Redford Theatre, we scheduled an unprecidented five day run, February 14-18, for a show starring Gloria Swanson, in person, with Lee Erwin at the organ. Friday, Saturday and Sunday night performances took place at the Redford Theatre, where chapter members worked nightly during the preceeding weeks relamping and repainting the auditorium, and rigging the stage for drapes. The Monday and Tuesday evening programs were held at the Royal Oak Theatre, where the staging was somewhat limited, for it is an operation movie house.

Extensive radio, television and newspaper publicity, in addition to our large public mailing list, resulted in an unprecidented attendance in excess of 5200 people.

As Lee played the Barton organ, Gloria Swanson, seated in a large chair at one side of the stage, recounted her career in the silents as film clips flashed by on the screen. The clips from "Teddy at the Throttle" and "Manhandled" proved to be among



Motor City celebrates ten busy years as a chapter with a catered banquet on the stage of the Redford Theatre. (Marjorie Allen Photo)



Gloria Swanson, atop the Redford Barton, sings to a near-capacity crowd, accompanied by Lee Erwin. The five-day event attracted over 5200 to the Redford and Royal Oak theatres.

Marjorie Allen Photo)

the most humorous.

Following intermission, we saw the serious side of Miss Swanson in her last silent feature, "Queen Kelly," which was never finished, and released, after the advent of sound, only in Europe and South America. Miss Swanson, who had made her first entrance of the evening singing, then showed segments from several of her early talking pictures in which she sang. A question and answer period ended the program, and allowed the audience an opportunity to get to know her more intimately.

Few will know just how hard we worked in order to present Gloria Swanson and Lee Erwin; but then, the constant effort to preserve the theatre organ is not an easy job.

DON LOCKWOOD

NIAGARA FRONTIER

Election time is over, and apparently the membership is well pleased, or at least satisfied, with the way our chapter activities were handled during the past year. All incumbents were returned to office with one exception, Director Jerry Krammer, who has been a faithful officer for many years, for personal reasons found it necessary to resign. We thank Jerry for his time and guidance in helping us make many important decisions.

Our officers for 1975 are: chairman, Randy Piazza; vice chairman, Gordon Gillette; secretary, Elwyn Guest; treasurer, Charles Koester; and newly elected directors: Neal McDonald, Tom VanBrocklin, and Steve Crowley reelected directors, Greg Gurtner, Ken Martin, Jim Meyers, Mark McDonald, Joe Thomas, and Jane Van Brocklin. Annual installation of officers and banquet is planned at the Kenwood Restaurant in Buffalo on March 22.

Over the years it has been a bitter pill to take to see so many fine theatre organs leave the East for the West Coast; if only we easterners could learn to like pizza.

One of our greatest losses in recent years, from which we will have a hard time recovering, is the announcement by Paul Birk that he is moving to the West Coast. Paul, along with the Joe Thomas', are at the top of the list for the hundreds of hours that they have spent in rebuilding the Riviera organ. We will miss Paul and his wife Edith, both of them good workers, good company and always around to attend receptions, board meetings and other functions. But I guess that the West was won when all these good easterners got the wander lust.

I am sure that as soon as Paul is established you will find him again, in his spare time, in some organ chamber. Perhaps with all his ingenuity he may be able to figure out a way to tie a rope around all those fine instruments and anchor them to a mountain top so that if the West Coast should slip off into the sea those organs can be saved for future generations instead of sinking to the bottom of the Pacific. Good luck, God speed and the best of luck

Edith and Paul Birk.

Another shock for our chapter was to hear that Roy Simon had severed half his left thumb. Fortunately Roy chose the right Doctor who sent him home to retrieve the other half and replaced it in its proper place.

Roy is one of those fine organists who has played many concerts for our chapter. He is always good for a turn at the console at every party, reception, board meeting and Silent Newsreel work session. Everyone is pulling for you Roy and the way I heard you play at the Jack Doll reception bandage and all, I think everything is going to turn out all right.

All is not bad for Niagara Frontier — here is some good news. For the hundreds of listeners from eastern Canada, western New York and northern Pennsylvania who have wondered what happened to WBEN-FM Organ Music we are happy to report that if you turn your FM dial to 98.5 MC, Monday thru Friday at 6:30 P.M. this fine theatre organ program may be heard again, this time over WHLD-FM, Niagara Falls, New York, with up to date news of our future organ concerts at the Riviera. Keep listening to WHLD-FM, 98.5 MC.

Jack Doll made his second appearance at the Riviera Theatre on January 15 and in spite of the bad weather, a large crowd attended. A pleasant surprise was the guest appearance of Don Kinnier, a favorite of the Riviera crowd and a personal friend of Jack. Don played a few numbers then joined Jack in several duets at the console.

After the concert Jack and Don made a personal appearance with their long-time friend, Luella Wickham, who made the trip from Syracuse for the concert.

On February 19th John Muri made another appearance at the Rivieera after an absence of some time. He put on a fine show as John is not exactly new at the game.

On March 19th, Del Castillo was scheduled for a concert at the Riviera Theatre. This was his first time at the Riviera but not his first time in the area having played at the Buffalo Theatre long, long ago when this movie Palace was first opened.

Other artists for our spring concerts will be Tom Gnaster in April, Andy Kasparian in May and Larry Ferrari in June.

STEVE CROWLEY

NORTH TEXAS

The major item of business at the February meeting of the chapter, held at Gene and Denise Powell's Organ World, was election of officers. It turned out to be a good session with everyone making comments as to who, how and why the club should be run. It is great having open discussions about what everyone wants out of the chapter. Basically, it came out the way it usually does; a percentage was interested in the planning and construction of theatre organs, another group was interested in playing the instruments primarily, and the remainder was primarily interested in just plain listenin' to a well-constructed and voiced theatre organ being played by a true artist. That's what it takes to make theatre organ, chapters and societies. No one group would be truly happy about theatre organs without the contributions of the other two. Somebody's gotta build 'em, someone has to play them, just so all can listen and enjoy.

The report of the nominating committee and its recommendations gave outgoing Chairman Earl McDonald a real workout in parliamentary procedure and the art of chairing a meeting. Nominations from the floor sure make it interesting.

The election results came out just the way the nominating committee recommended, and for the first time in many a moon, we had to resort to secret ballot voting. Lorena McKee is our new chairperson, Jerry Bacon the first vice chairman (programs) and Gene Powell as second vice chairman (membership). Doris Garrett was reelected to the position of chapter secretary. Doris, the only way you'll get out of the job is to quit doing it so well.

A few other items of business were also discussed, among them the generating of more interest in technical sessions and actual "on the job training" in the art, crafts and fun of putting theatre organs together and making them work. Under Lorena's capable leadership all of us can get more involved in this phase of our hobby.

The two Mark Munzells (Sr. and Jr.) are busy installing their instrument in the new addition to the house and Gordon Wright, John Beck and a few others are either building homes to house new installations or installing bigger and better instruments in their

homes. Jim Peterson says he'd be glad to serve as chief instructor in the crafts. Jim feels that the fun and relaxation of working on theatre organs is a nice break, without detracting from the skill and craftsmanship of installing pipe organs for your "bread and butter." He also has one of his own to install and all he really needs is a bigger room to put it in.

After the business meeting, we were in for a real treat. Host Gene Powell, after a few numbers just to warm up the organ, presented Bill Flynt, who entertained us with a great job of accompanying "Teddy at the Throttle", starring Mary Pickford and Wallace Berry. The film is of 1916 vintage, and Flynt did a great job of demonstrating how important the organ music accompaniment was to the full enjoyment of the silents. A good organist "made" the picture. Chapter members hissed the villain and cherred the hero, and not "on cue" either. Dr. Bill, (he holds a Doctorate in physics) you done great!

The newly elected "administrative board" met on February 24 at Lorena McKee's home and discussed 1975 plans for programs and activities. If the 1975 programs are as good as Lorena's refreshments and as lively as the board discussions, we're in for a great year. It's interesting to note that even though some of the chapter "old timers" have found it necessary to curtail some of their chapter activities, we have grown to a total of 42 members. That's exactly a 50% increase in membership from two years ago.

OREGON

The chapter meeting and concert was held on Sunday, February 23 at the Portland Scottish Rite Temple.

Chapter member Walter Miesen, official organist at the temple, was our artist of the day. We are most appreciative to Walt for his efforts in getting approval for our meeting. The temple supplied members, at no charge to our chapter, to operate the meeting. Our sincere thanks to John Horton, electrician, Harry Hoak, stage manager and temple guards Roy Bolt and Wilson Harvey. The Scottish Rite Temple has been undergoing a million dollar renovation over the past three years. It is a real pleasure to see one of Portland's historic old structures brought up to standards, instead of razing it, and building some new modern monstrosity.

The stage settings of the temple are spectacular, and rival any stage in a theatre of the past or present.

The meeting was opened by Chairman Gerry Gregorius. Arlene Ingram was called on to bring us up to date in our efforts to charter a bus to the San Francisco convention.

Organist for the day, Walter Miesen, introduced his program and mentioned the titles of the three sections. While he went up to the console of the 3/13 Wurlitzer in the balcony, Dennis Hedberg told us that the Paramount Theatre had made the decision to dispose of all art and furniture objects in the theatre that were not "essential" to



Walter Miesen at the Scottish Rite 3/13 Wurlitzer.

the actual operation of the "rock and roll" house. This includes disposal of the 4/20 Publix No. 1 Wurlitzer. Dennis advised the chapter that the organization he represents, "The Organ Grinder," is prepared to out-bid everyone in the open auction of the organ. If the "Grinder gets the organ it will remain in the theatre, available to the chapter, until such time as the "Organ Grinder" organization is ready to put it into a new "Grinder" in the Portland area. Every effort will be made to save the organ for Portland.

After Dennis' announcement, Walter took his place at the console. He used some of the stage settings and lighting with his musical accompaniment. It was most impressive. One section of Walt's concert was entitled "Bridge to Dreamland." This writer has never heard anyone before who played in the style of Paul Carson. As we told Walt later, you almost put us to sleep, but wasn't that what "Bridge to Dreamland" was all about, many radio years ago?

We are most grateful to all the staff of the Temple for their hospitality, and especially to our good member Walter Miesen, who insisted on donating his concert to our chapter.

We understand that our own Paul Quarino is to be one of the soloists at the San Francisco convention, and we are proud and happy about this. Anyone who hasn't heard Paul will be very impressed with his fantastic musicianship and style and also his great personality.

SAN FRANCISCO HERE WE COME!!

DON INGRAM

POTOMAC VALLEY

The new year came in with a roar for the Potomac Valley Chapter. Our January artist was none other than Dick Smith. He gave a spectacular concert amid a variety of obstacles which could easily have upset a less professional musician but didn't affect him at all. The scene was the Virginia Theatre with its sometimes tempermental Barton. In attendance were 180 chapter members, guests, and a TV film crew from our local NBC affiliate WRC-TV who were there to complete a special on the club for local evening news. Amid changing lights, ladders, cameras under his nose, pauses for retakes, etc., Dick gave an



Dick Smith performs in spite of the TV camera crew and equipment at the Virginia Theatre. (Roy Wagner Photo)

exciting concert. His selections ranged from soft, sentimental ballads to full brass and percussions and explored the full variety of resources available in the Barton.

Dick plays professionally in a restaurant in Baltimore and came to our Sunday morning meeting with a few hours sleep but still did a top notch job and we look forward to hearing more from this very talented artist later in the year.

February saw us once again visiting the studios of Doug Bailey for a program at his 2/11 Moller. Two artists were on the program and both did a fine job with a wide variety of selections.

First to appear, was Howard Murphy. He has been very active in the upkeep of the Virginia Theatre Barton and other chapter activities but has not played for us before. It was a real pleasure to find another talented artist among our membership. Howard played for a time in the Lawler Theatre in Greenfield, Mass. on the "Little Mother" Wurlitzer and his program was sprinkled with selections from that era. Even with his audience scattered through the five rooms of the studio, his warmth and personality came through and everyone enjoyed hearing him.

After a pause for refreshments, Doug Bailey presented a program of old chestnuts and newer selections. Doug is heading up the restoration efforts on the Kimball we are currently involved with, and always gives most generously of his time and many talents for club activities. His desk is in the office next to the console of the Moller and the temptations to spend all day at the organ are many. We are most fortunate to have a man with his abilities in our chapter.

FRANK VITALE

PUGET SOUND

The chapter members started 1975 off with a concert at the Temple Theatre in Tacoma, Washington, on Sunday morning February 9. A very fine presentation of very lovely music was enjoyed by our members as Andy Kasparian was introduced to them in concert on the 2/9 Kimball. Andy's selections were very well received. He was even coaxed into playing a couple of the rousing tunes which have gained him so much popularity during his performances at the well known neighborhood pizza parlor. All of the audience at the Temple Theatre joined in the fun when Andy played his interpretation of Calijah and Hava Nagela. He then resumed his regularly planned concert, playing such lovely tunes as Ebb Tide, Meditation, and a particularly beautiful arrangement of Bye Bye Blues, to name only a few of the songs we were privileged to enjoy.



Master of Ceremonies Russ Evans, artist Andy Kasparian and Chairman Mark Cockrill at the Temple Theatre, Tacoma, WA.

At the conclusion of Andy's program the master of ceremonies, Russ Evans, introduced Jane McKee Johnson and her husband Homer who began the open console portion of the morning by playing several duets. Jane was at the keyboard of the grand piano while Homer was at the console of the organ. Homer is the man responsible for the excellent condition of this installation. Jane McKee is no stranger to ATOS, having been one of the featured artists during the 1971 Convention in Seattle, at which time she was heard on this very same instrument.

Following this portion of the Sunday program, we drove north, towards Seattle, to gather at Big Bobs' Pizza House for our meeting and luncheon, and to enjoy another open console session in which many of our members participated.

Several members of Puget Sound journeyed to our state capitol, Olympia, to attend one of the events scheduled in the Governors Festival of Arts for 1975. In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Olympic Theatre, in Olympia, the Festival of Arts committee elected to feature the theatre organ as part of the annual affair. The theatre was full and we all very much enjoyed Andy Crow's accompaniment of the Academy Award winning silent movie "Wings".

Prior to the movie presentation, several of the travelers from the Seattle area met at the home of Fran and Tom Solberg to partake of a potluck supper and to enjoy some fine music played on their 2/9 Wurlitzer-Morton. Don Myers took over the console of the organ and played several numbers in duet, with Mrs. Sam Tottem at the keyboard of the grand piano. Mrs. Tottem is the widow of the first organist at the Olympic Theatre, who played the opening night, New Year's Day, 1925. Immediately following the performance at the theatre, some of the Seattle visitors were able to return to the Solbergs' home for dessert and more music. This time Don Wallin and Andy Kasparian shared the honors on piano and organ.

The Puget Sound Chapter wishes to extend their congratulations to the American Theatre Organ Society on their 20th anniversary. We are all very proud of this organization and pleased to be a part of it. Our chapter is looking forward to a special program in the very near future to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the founding of Puget Sound Chapter. Actually on February 3, 1955 Dr. Mel Doner visited with 14 local enthusiasts in the home of Bob Jones. How many of the following are still active in ATOS? Dan Adomson, Mrs. Glenn White Sr., Glenn White Jr., Bob Coombs, Dean Botteker, Ted Leamy, Glenn White Sr., Catherine Siderius, Jim Collier, Ken Maybery, Bob Jones, William Bunch, George Cole, and Alden Bice. These names are taken from the caption to a picture which appeared in one of the early TIBIA magazines. It was stated that of the 14 persons listed, 9 had their own installations. The 12th charter issued was awarded Puget Sound on February 27, 1960. The first

chairman was Bruce R. Jacobson and the secretary was M.H. Strickland, Jr., both from Bellingham, the actual birthplace of our chapter.

We were most happy to have had Pete Schaeble, of New York City, as a guest at our Christmas Party and to be able to visit with him from time to time when he is away from his duties at the Trident Submarine Base near Bremerton, Washington, across Puget Sound from Seattle. At this time it seems that he will still be in our part of the country for several months and we are very happy to have him here.

New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia ATOSers take note. One of Puget Sounds newest members will be coming your way on a concert tour the second and third weeks of May. He will be no stranger to you. In fact, he will actually be returning home for a brief stay. We are speaking of Andy Kasparian who is at present scheduled to give a concert at Kingsbury., N.J. on May 12, at the Riviera Theatre, No. Tonawanda, N.Y. on May 14 and will be returning to his old home at the Suburbian Restaurant on Sunday, May 18. We shall be looking forward to his return to Seattle to take up his regular job on May 24. We wish him well on his concert tour.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

The new year is starting off with lots of enthusiasm. What we lack in numbers out here in the open spaces of the west we make up for in dedication to ATOS.

Denver was treated, on November 22, to an AGO-sponsored concert by Billy Nalle on the Rodgers Touring Organ in Phipps Auditorium. Rocky Mountain Chapter assisted the AGO in some of the work involved. The annual meeting and election of officers was held December 8 at Villa Music Company in Denver.

Many members join in fellowship and organ-rebuilding activities every Tuesday evening at Fred Riser's organ building in nearby Henderson, Colorado. A 2/6 Wurlitzer, the current project, is located at one end of the building, and should be finished before too many months. Following its completion by the dedicated crew, a 4-manual Barton, now in storage, will be installed at the opposite end of the building.

Bill Johnston has achieved an anniversary celebrated by only a few people, having recently attained a record of 50 years as a church organist. Bill led the chapter for two years as chairman during 1972 and 1973, is a theatre organist, and chief slavedriver and organizer for the Tuesday night organ workshop sessions.

KEN TILLOTSON

SAN DIEGO

With an enthusiastic group of thirty-six ATOS members, the organizational meeting for the San Diego Chapter got off to a grand start at the Springfield Wagon Works restaurant on Tuesday, February 5, 1975. The group convened at 6:00 P.M. with the election of temporary chairman Preston (Sandy) Fleet. Sandy is well known to the group and has led the initial organizing efforts to gather interested local ATOS members. His efforts have been instrumental in receiving a charter from the national society and persuaded out sister chapter in Los Angeles to relinquish the San Diego portion of their chartered territory.

With the reading of the charter agreements by the temporary chairman, the group voted its formal approval and began its existence by the election of permanent officers. Chairman and secretary positions were filled by George and Susie Coade, members from Carlsbad, California, with a long history of interest in music groups. George is a practicing radiologist in the Oceanside-Carlsbad area, and his wife, Susie, is a former legal secretary, who is now the busy mother of three grade school children, and very active in school volunteer programs.

With the election of officers, the group turned to the development of group activities and definition of goals. The members present voted to hold six meetings yearly on an alternate month schedule. These meetings will be open to all ATOS members, prospective members and guests. Future meetings were proposed at the Fox Theatre, the homes of Floyd Watson, the Coades, Tom Packard and the Fleets. Dates and programs will be sent to the membership as soon as they are available.

The group also established a dues structure for the local chapter of \$5.00 yearly, with the business year to run from January through December, coinciding with that of the national organization. Additional donations, for refreshments and other expenses, may be asked for by the officers as

necessary with any additional funds being raised by a vote of the membership as the need arises. Distribution of a local mailing list of the membership was also approved by the group.

Turning to future growth, a proposal to hold public concerts sponsored by the chapter for an additional source of income was moved and passed.

LOIS SEGUR

SIERRA

During the months of January and February the chapter had three concerts played by an equal number of excellent artists. Each had a slightly larger audience to tax the capacity of Bob and Cathy Breuer's Arden Pizza and Pipes.

January 19 Bill Langford played his second Sierra Chapter concert in less than a year. He played to a full house, which is not unusual. His many years at Ye Olde Pizza Joynte, Hayward, has built a tremendous following for his top flight ability to please the audience.

Sunday afternoon, February 16, was another full house at Arden Pizza and Pipes when its 4/21 Wurlitzer was heard in concert by an artist whose fame is associated with Marcel Dupre, San Francisco's St. Mary's Cathedral, Poulenc, Luening, and the American Guild of Organists. Dr. Frederick Tulan is also a member of the American Theatre Organ Society and Sierra Chapter and he played the musical background for Mack Sennett's 1916 comedy, "Teddy at the Throttle," starring Gloria Swanson, Wallace Berry and Bobby Venton. He also played selections from Annie Get Your Gun as well as from Max Steiner's score for Gone With The Wind.

Fred showed his audience he didn't need his score when it all fell on the



Dr. Fred Tulan, in his J.S. Bach shirt, at Arden Pizza and Pipes' during the Sierra Chapter February concert. (Carroll F. Harris Photo)

floor. He showed them he had a sense of humor with his announcements, but even more humor was shown when he took off his jacket, revealing J.S. Bach emblazoned on the back of his shirt.

February 23 the chapter tried something they had never done before — the second of two concerts in one month, and had the largest audience they have ever had in Pizza and Pipes. From the very first notes you knew Jimmy Paulin, Jr., was in command of the instrument. His warmth and audience rapport really came across. After breaking the proverbial ice with Getting To Know You he invited the group to join in on any tune they desired, by clapping or singing.

Jimmy's sense of humor is natural and it showed best after the intermission when he stretched out his left hand with palm upturned, inviting some member of the audience to "pay up with that nickel" — and he got it. Seems a gentleman wanted to hear Ellington, and hear it he did in a great version of Satin Doll — with much laughter. The concert had something for everybody including Paulin's version of Virgil Fox playing a Bach fugue. Three standing ovations for that and other tunes no less!!! At 4:30 a

great Paulin arrangement of *There's* No Business Like Show Business finally closed the program — one-half hour after the normal conclusion hour.

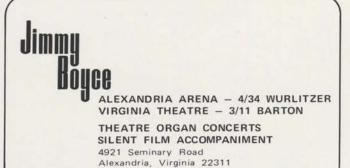
In closing, Paulin said he'd be back in the fall as several concerts had been arranged here on the coast. Sierra Chapter is going to work for one of those concerts, and have it in a larger hall — we'll travel if we have to. In the meantime any ATOS chapter on the East Coast looking for a warm, vibrant artist should try Jimmy Paulin's services — he's great, and if you don't think so, find one of the 350 or so in attendance at Arden Pizza and Pipes that Sunday.

The latest word about restoration of the theatre pipe organ in Grant High School, Sacramento, is that Balcom and Vaughn will commence console installation in late May or early June. The custom built console, built by Kilgen, was destroyed on December 10, 1973 by an arsonist. The organ will be played by Rex Koury of Sierra Chapter for the 20th National ATOS Convention on July 18.

Mrs. Charlotte Seaver, widow of organist George Seaver, is undergoing radiation treatment for cancer. Her late husband was the first treasurer and vice chairman of Sierra Chapter and the club is dedicating their 2/8 Wurlitzer to his memory on April 20, 1975

May 18 Sierra Chapter will move its monthly meeting to the second pipe organ equipped pizza palace in the Sacramento Area — Roy and Larry Weid's Big Top Pizza which is home for Wurlitzer Opus 681, heard for years on WLW Radio's Moon River. House organist Jeff Barker will perform.

Chapter member and Pizza and Pipes relief organist, Don Croom, will be heard on June 15. This will be the last concert before the National Con-



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Direct Contact: (315) 469-6161 - (315) 458-1544 - (315) 636-9503 vention, and affair in which the chapter is deeply involved.

Every Thursday morning Bob and Cathy Breuer play host to bus loads of Sacramento County school children at Pizza and Pipes with a "trip through the organ," some music and refreshments. Organist Don Croom, is also a student at California State University at Sacramento, and holds their interest, answers their questions, and has just as much fun out of the event as the children.

Chapter Chairman Dale Mendenhall maintains the organ in top condition; he is also a co-host at the Thursday morning events which are a novel way to get the word of the theatre pipe organ story into more homes.

CARROL HARRIS

SOUTHEASTERN

The elaborate marquee of the Atlanta Fox now bears a single word: CLOSED. At the end of the 9:00 P.M. feature picture on Thursday, January 2, the curtain closed for the last time. A smattering of patrons, mostly saddened ATOSers, filed out through the lobbies. The ABC-Paramount lease had expired and "the last picture show" was a reality. Now the house is dark, awaiting whatever fate is in store. Its mighty 4/42 Moller is well secured, though silent. The organ had some final moments of glory. Dennis and Heidi James were in Atlanta for New Year's and Dennis spent several hours at the Mighty Mo, to the delight of a few friends fortunate enough to drop by the theatre without prior knowledge of his visit.

Mosque, Inc., owners of the Fox Theatre, have contracted to sell the theatre and certain parcels of land in the same block to Southern Bell. As originally announced, the plans of the utility company were to demolish the Fox and build a new corporate headquarters in a high-rise office tower. However, Southern Bell has agreed to postpone application for a demolition permit from the City of Atlanta until May 1, 1975. They have also agreed to entertain offers from "any organization" for the purchase of the Fox with the stipulation that the new ownership group "preserve the building." The initial asking price was \$3.5 million plus overhead and legal costs. Conversations with Southern Bell officials indicate the price has now risen to \$4.25 million plus overhead and legal costs. This price increase results from additional properties adjacent to the Fox being acquired by Southern Bell.

Atlanta Landmarks Inc., a not-forprofit corporation formed to preserve historical sites, has as its first priority objective "Save The Fox." Joe Patten of ATOS is chairman on the Save The Fox committee and is working hard to follow up on any and all possibilities, several of which appear hopeful.

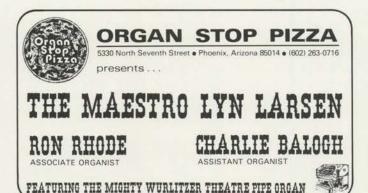
Southeastern Chapter is back where it began with mostly plug-ins. Members have generously offered their oscillator-equipped living rooms to fill the gap. The January host was Jack Goodwin (Conn); in February, Don Kasten (Gulbransen); and in March, Walter Winn (Allen 3-manual).

Refurbishing of Joe Patten's East Point Theatre is progressing. Whatever is to become of the Fox, we can look to the day when the East Point organ is completed and again the voice of Moller is heard in the land.

BOB VAN CAMP

SOUTH FLORIDA

The chapter held its November meeting at the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale. It was a joint meeting, held with the Fort Lauderdale and Miami chapters of the American Guild of Organists. The subject of the meeting was the new 5/117 Ruffatti which had been installed. Diane Bish, organist at the church, demonstrated the instrument. The organ will not be finished completely



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until April, but it is a beautiful straight instrument. The ATOS chapter officer nominations were presented and approved.

The annual meeting on December 15 was held at J. Calvin Juriet's house, containing the 3/14 Wurlitzer. Those who had been nominated in the November meeting were all elected to their posts. Pete Dumser was guest artist, and did a fine job. The chapter sang Christmas carols after the program with various members accompanying at the organ. It was a good close for the year.

The New Year's Party was held on January 5 at Bob Andre's who has a 3/15 Wurlitzer Model 260. Dick Jacques was the guest artist. After the recital, a silent movie was accompanied by member Betty Lee Taylor. Bob Andre is continuing to install an atmospheric theatre, (about 25% complete) which was viewed by the members present. After further explorations at the keyboard by other members, the meeting ended.

LAWRENCE BRIGHTMAN

WEST PENN

February 18, Pittsburgh, and the Mighty South Hills 2/6 Wurlitzer! Mighty 2/6?? The answer had to be yes when the Pittsburgh Area Theatre

Organ Society and West Penn Theatre Organ Society sponsored the first concert in a new series designed to show-case Pittsburgh's last remaining original in-theatre pipe installation. Mighty? Yes, when that concert featured Hector Olivera, Pittsburgh's brilliant young organist. Mighty also due to the magic of a unique electronic coupling device developed by PATOS President and West Penn member, Jay Smith, which more than triples the output of this beautifully restored instrument.

Thanks to the diligent efforts by the loyal and skillful PATOS members, this last remaining in-house Pittsburgh theatre organ (originally installed in 1927) was restored to its original glory, and then some, for the opening concert in this new series designed to include nationally known artists in piano and organ duos, silent movies with theatre organ accompaniment, sing-alongs, etc., in addition to regular theatre organ concerts.

For this first program only one person could have been chosen — Hector Olivera, whose popularity in the Pittsburgh area is already legendary. Hector is equally at home in Heinz Hall (formerly the Loew's Penn) as one of Pittsburgh's favorite classical concert organists, at Conley's Restaurant and Manor East, (where he has

performed pop miracles on his modified X-66,) or at one of America's other fine theatre organs, such as the Rochester, N.Y. or Columbus, Ohio. Hector blends just the right amount of music, humor, and keyboard pyrotechnics. Once having heard him play Flight of the Bumblebee on the pedalboard, or Londonderry Air with fourpart pedal harmony and harp glissando on two manuals, it is easy to understand why even professional colleagues still say, "I see it, I hear it — but I don't believe it!!"

Hector's opening number, a rousing Everything's Coming up Roses, amply demonstrated the restored voicing capabilities of the instrument. Each selection thereafter was given a special introduction. Part of Hector's audience appeal is his informal presentation of program notes, including amusing and informative musical asides.

During theatre organ concerts, Hector will often demonstrate and explain individual registrations in a manner that enhances the audience's enjoyment. At the South Hills concert it was doubly intriguing to hear how much more color and variety could be added to the instruments six ranks with imaginative use of Dr. Smith's new coupling mechanism.

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Hector Olivera at the completely restored Wurlitzer. Directly behind Hector, at the base of the music stand, is the little box that contains Dr. Jay Smith's ingenious coupling device.



PATOS program chairperson Shirley Flowers, Dr. Abernethy and Harold Rouse.

a River was followed by a contrasting rollicking Teddy Bear's Picnic. Hector then displayed his own special creative registrations in unusual arrangements of People and Has Anyone Seen My Sweet Gypsy Rose.

For a classical change of pace, Hector chose J.S. Bach's Fugue in G Minor which provided an interesting contrast to the following medley, which included Alexander's Ragtime Band, A-Train, Shine on Harvest Moon, and In The Mood.

After the intermission, M.C.Randy Lafferty acknowledged the presence of ATOS President, Dr. Paul Abernethy, and then introduced Jay Smith, who presented Harold Rouse a placque awarding him a lifetime membership in PATOS for his service to the Society and his many years as a theatre organist. Mr. Rouse was one of Pittsburgh's pioneer theatre organists, who also has worked in theatres from Atlantic City to Hawaii.

Beginning the second half of his program with a lively give-'em-Heck version of *The Entertainer*, young Olivera then displayed a raffish sense of humor with a sly "take-off" medley of *Bye Bye Blackbird*, *My Blue Heaven*, and *Pretty Baby*. After the chuckles had died down, Hector moved once more to a serious classical

theme — this time an innovative arrangement of two Debussy selections, Arabesque No. 1 and Clair de Lune. Here, again, Hector displayed brilliant musical imagination as well as creative registration — and in this instance accomplished an almost impossible tour-de-force by eliciting the mood, if not the exact sound of a Moog synthesizer from a theatre pipe organ of the twenties.

Hector then moved back several decades to a full-orchestra version of Slaughter on Tenth Avenue — an ideal vehicle for demonstrating the full potential of the South Hills Wurlitzer.

No Hector Olivera concert is com-

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2102 Dexter Avenue, Apt. 203 Silver Spring, Maryland 20902 (301) 593-3962 plete without his special talent in the field of improvisation. For this occasion, Herky Knell provided the theme: Yankee Doodle. "Doodle" it Hector did — pleasing both classicists and pop music fans alike, ringing in a remarkably ingenious improvised set of variations on a typically American theme.

As might be expected, this improvisation brought the audience to its feet for the first of several standing ovations: Hector obliged with his now famous Flight of the Bumblebee and his closing theme My Way.

It may have taken nearly half a century to bring back the excitement of theatre organ to Pittsburgh, and thanks to the combined efforts of West Penn and PATOS, it now appears that Pittsburgh's once great theatre organ past has seen its rebirth with Hector Olivera at the South Hills Theatre.

FRAN VERRI and DAVE HOUSMAN

WOLVERINE

Our January 12 meeting was held at what is perhaps the finest in-theatre installation in the state of Michigan — Ann Arbor's Michigan Theatre, as guests of the Motor City Chapter for one of their Second Sunday programs.

The artist of the day was member

Sam Lam, D.M.A. of Ann Arbor, who woke us all up with Strauss' Also Sprach Zarathustra, which led into Oh, What A Beautiful Morning. Included in Sam's program was a medley of four songs about his native homeland, the state of Hawaii.

Being of the classical background that Sam is, he couldn't let the morning slip by without playing something strictly out of the classics. He chose the Virgil Fox arrangement of *Now Thank We All Our God*, which came off surprisingly well on the organ,

especially considering the use of the beautiful Gottfried English Posthorn within the piece.

A special note of praise goes to Ben Levy, for whom this writer has a great deal of respect and admiration, and the maintenance crew for the superb condition in which they keep the Michigan's 3/13 Barton.

Another note of thanks goes to Sam Lam himself, as this was his first excursion into the field of theatre organ. We certainly hope it is by far not his last.



Sam Lam, D.M.A., at the 3/13 Barton in Ann Arbor's Michigan Theatre.

(L. G. Mallett Photo)

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Belvedere Ave. Wanaque, New Jersey 07465 (201) 835-3903 On Sunday, February 16, we were the guests of the management of the Macomb Theatre in Mt. Clemens and Mr. Bill Nelem, to see, hear and play the 3/9 Kilgen. Upon entering the theatre, we were most surprised to hear music pouring forth, which we soon discovered to be a Wurlitzer Model 153 band organ of 11 ranks and percussions, one of many which have been restored by Bill Nelem.

Our organist for the morning was

Lee Hohner, one of Detroit's most familiar organists, who opened his program with *The American Legion March*. Among the morning's selections were a medley from Showboat, and one from the movie Song Of Norway.

We wish to thank not only Motor City Chapter for inviting us to their Second Sunday program, but, Bill Nelem and the Macomb Theatre as well.

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