

by Chuck Schrader

The "Spirit of '76 — 1976 that is! That's our slogan! The Delaware Valley Chapter is forging ahead with plans for the 21st National Convention in the Philadelphia area. (We could say that ATOS has "come of age" now that we are twenty-one — but we won't.) It is interesting to

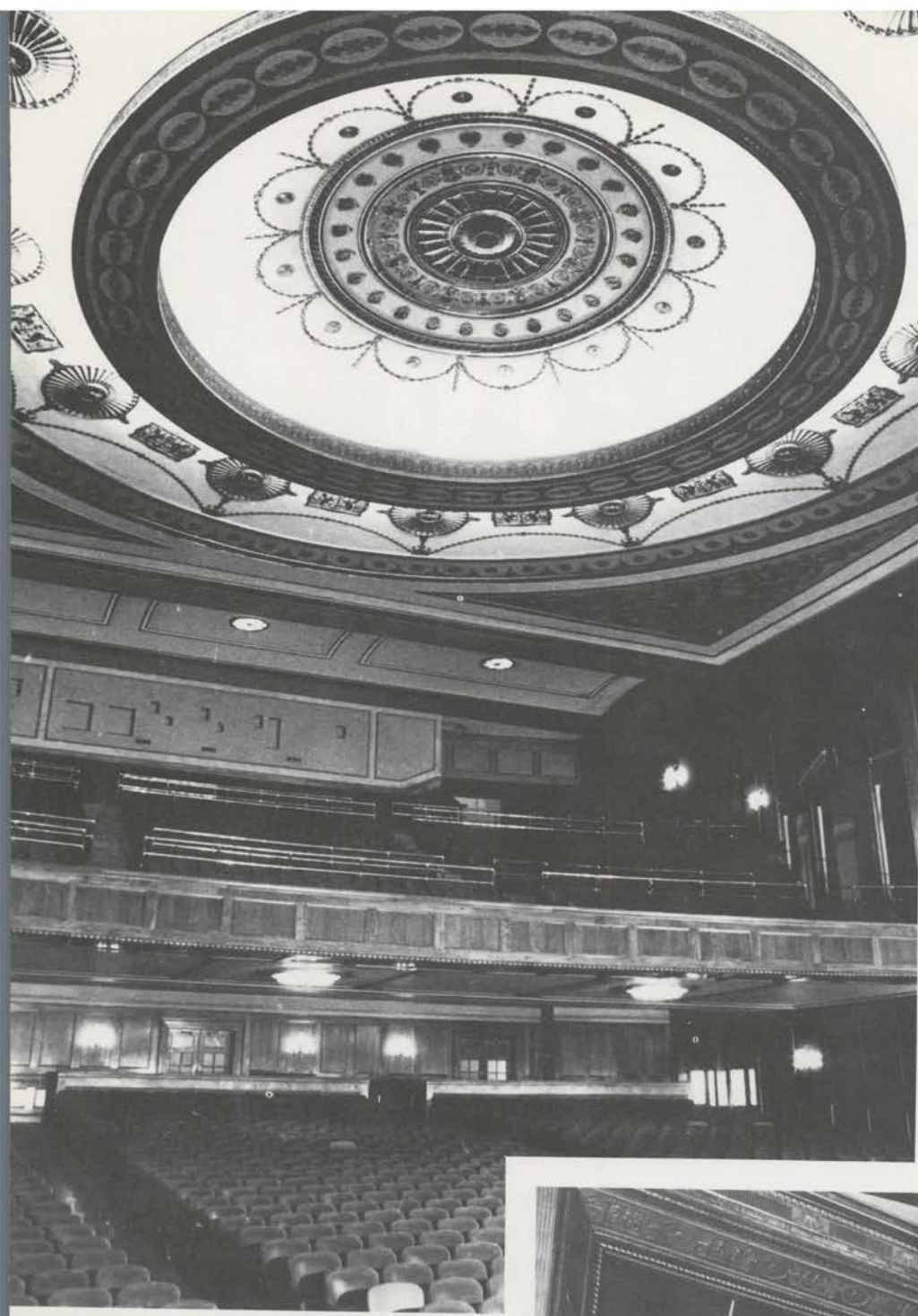
note that in conjunction with our ATOS National Convention in Philadelphia there is also going to be a "Bicentennial" celebration! We certainly shouldn't be lacking for "general public" for those concerts that can handle the crowds. Our national president, Dr. Paul Abernethy, has been here, seen our headquarters, the Cherry Hill Inn, in Cherry Hill, N.J., and was truly impressed. Since we are a tri-state chapter, we'll be covering Pennsyl-

vania (Philadelphia area), Delaware and central and southern New Jersey for our events.

As of now we expect to have — would you believe — twenty-three (23) organists! Approximately *fourteen* instruments, eight of which are truly theatre organs (Wurlitzer, Moller, Kimball), six in a theatre, one in a large auditorium and one in a hotel! Then there are outstand-

The Trenton War Memorial houses a Moller that will be featured in '76. (Wayne C. Zimmerman Photo)





Illuminated dome in the 2000-seat auditorium.
(Wayne C. Zimmerman Photo)

ing "concert" organs with percussion to be presented; one of which is in a gigantic auditorium that is really a superb theatre! Another is in a huge ballroom surrounded by exquisite gardens. (If this gets you to guessing which organ is where, etc. — *good* — be sure to register early!!) This does not include home installations or the electronics on exhibit. So come prepared to enjoy, enjoy, enjoy!

We also expect to have a couple of "firsts" this time. Our friend and

neighbor, the recently chartered Garden State Chapter (northern New Jersey) has most generously come forth with a fabulous surprise installation. It is so unbelievably appropriate to a National ATOS Convention that it will be a major feature. It is the Trenton War Memorial, also called the Trenton Opera House, in Trenton, N.J. (the state capitol).

Also unique, here in the Delaware Valley area, is actually the "World's Largest" organ(s). The John Wanamaker Store Grand Court concert instrument — 6 manual, 469 rank and 9 percussions — and the Atlantic City Convention Hall Auditorium concert instrument — a Midmer-Losh, 7 manual, 455 rank plus 14 percussions behemoth!

A concert has been scheduled on the Wanamaker organ, but we have not been able to finalize arrangements for the Atlantic City organ yet. We'll keep you informed in later releases. Here are the dates — Friday, July 16 thru Wednesday, July 21, with an "afterglow" even more interesting and complete on Thursday, July 22, all in 1976! Whatever else you may do next year, don't miss this "gathering of the clan" — the "Spirit of '76" — hosted by the Delaware Valley Chapter. □

See the Trenton article on the next page.

The 3/16 Moller from the Lincoln Theatre (Trenton) was installed in the War Memorial in 1974 — some 42 years after the building was dedicated.

(Wayne C. Zimmerman Photo)

