

# ATOS LIBRARY ACQUIRES JOE BRITE SLIDE COLLECTION

by Lloyd E. Klos

ATOS members were saddened to learn late in 1974 that theatre organist Joe Brite had passed away, the result of injuries sustained in an attempted holdup of the Rialto Theatre in Alamosa, Colo., where he served as manager-organist for many years.

Joe had a very extensive glass slide collection and when Mrs. Brite made it available, the ATOS National Library seemed the logical repository. Tom Lockwood, vice chairman of the ATOS Historical Committee, hastily put in a bid for the slides for library use, and it was accepted.

Duane Searle, ATOS Director and United Airlines pilot who lives in Aurora, Colo., became an important part of the story. In April he made a



A young Joe Brite at a 2-manual Wurlitzer console. Theatre is unknown, but it could have been the Sterling in Greeley, Colorado, which Joe opened. (Brite family coll.)

trip to Alamosa, secured the slides and projector, and in successive trips to Rochester, he deposited them with Tom. Not one of the more than 900 slides was broken in transit, which attests to the wisdom of handling the shipment in this manner.

The slides, some colored, are mainly those used in sing-alongs, and a majority of them are still housed in the original boxes which were sent Mr. Brite by Harry Blair, the well remembered friend of theatre organists who operated in New York City in the thirties. There are

some slides which are not in boxes, and as a result, some time must be expended to collate them into complete series. Tom will soon transport the collection to Elon, where it will be catalogued and stored.

The ATOS thanks Mrs. Brite for allowing the collection to go to our library. Material like this is what will enhance the ATOS archives, and it is hoped that other people in ATOS will see the wisdom of allocating priceless memorabilia for posterity in this fashion. □

The Brite collection consists of over 900 slides.

(T. Lockwood Photo)

The projector which was acquired with Brite slide collection. (T. Lockwood Photo)

