

Cleaning is also important, especially when we have three or four performances on a weekend and sweeping out between shows is necessary. Once again, members come to the rescue and man the brooms and trash bags. We operate with all volunteer help, and our members are working harder at the theatre than they would consider at home.

Once a month we host the Detroit Youth Film Forum for high school students, which previews a soon-to-be-released film and discussions are held after the viewing. During this, and most other outside performances, we are demonstrating our Barton organ to groups who have never before had the opportunity to hear live theatre organ music.

In addition to the mailings to raise funds, we have scheduled a full summer of fund-raising events. A giant garage sale is planned for the lobby, a five-day carnival will be held in the parking lots, and a summer series of all-time favorite films will be held every weekend during July and August, with a different nationally known artist at the organ for a pops concert.

An "orgathon" is planned for Labor Day weekend, when the organ will be played around the clock to collect pledges and possibly set a Guinness world record for theatre organ playing.

What can you do? We are so happy you asked! Donations of any amount from ATOS members and chapters are welcome. Each contribution of \$25.00 or more will be acknowledged by a lapel pin saying "I'm an angel — I helped buy the Redford," plus a ticket to a "Contributor's Concert" featuring a name artist, at the end of the fund raising drive.

Contributions of \$100.00 or more will receive a copper plaque, \$500.00 or more, a silver plaque, \$1,000 or more, a gold plaque, \$5,000 or more a specially engraved plaque and a lifetime membership in the chapter.

And for \$50,000 you will get a private concert!

Again, we repeat, please help Motor City "Buy the Redford" by sending your tax-deductible contributions to:

Motor City Theatre Organ Society
P.O. Box 40716
Redford, Michigan 48240

Chicago '77 ATOS Convention Update . . .

by Tom Tibia
with the assistance of Jim Koller

PALMER HOUSE, CHICAGO — I'm standing in the elegant lobby of this grand hotel after a brief tour by Jim Koller of the "Chicago '77" convention hospitality committee who helped show me what registrants can expect when they arrive for the big event.

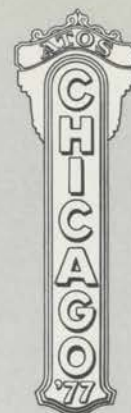
Located at State and Monroe Streets, the Palmer House is just a short cab ride from Amtrak's Union Station as well as both bus depots. Those travelling lighter than I do (three steamer trunks and a tooth brush!) could easily walk from Greyhound or Trailways which are both on Randolph St., four blocks north. If you are flying into O'Hare Field, a cab ride will cost about \$10. It makes more sense, however, to take the Continental Air Transport Bus from the lower baggage claim area. Be sure to be on their South Loop bus which comes directly here to the Palmer House for only \$3.15 one way. If you are driving one of Cousin Carter's gas guzzlers you may exit Interstate 94 at Monroe St. and proceed east two miles to the hotel on State St. Hotel parking is available in the Mid-Continent Plaza building garage directly across Wabash Ave. to the east of the hotel for about \$4.00 per day (use the Monroe St. entrance). City parking is also available, three blocks east of the hotel, at the Monroe St. lot at \$4.00 per day.

The main lobby of the hotel where I am now standing is one flight up from the street level. The Palmer House is a Hilton Hotel which accepts all major credit cards including Visa-BankAmericard, Master Charge, Carte Blanche and Diners Club. Having completed your hotel check in, you can find our registration area on the mezzanine overlooking the lobby. Just ride the escalator up and turn to your right.

Hopefully you will have pre-

registered so that Charlotte Rieger and helpers will have your registration packet and badge prepared and waiting for you. Please step down to see Art Todesco who will help you select your alternative event. You have one choice from four alternatives, two on Saturday afternoon (Home Tour "A" or WGN) and two on Sunday afternoon (Home Tour "B" or Temple Sholom). Three organs are on Home Tour "A": Faye Wheeler's 3/16 Wicks from the Oral Roberts University Auditorium, Art Todesco's 2/5 Estey (with Haskell basses), one of fourteen pipe organs originally in the Oriental Theatre building, and the 3/8 Wurlitzer-Kimball hybrid which belongs to Jack Gustafson.

Corporate Vice President Alexander Field will be on hand to host those who choose WGN, home of a 3/11 Wurlitzer/Kimball. It was heard on the *Little Orphan Annie* and *Amos and Andy* radio shows, and is one of the few left in broadcasting. It is still in weekly use for religious shows and on special occasions, such as a recent Christmas TV special when it was played by Walter Strony. On Sunday, Home Tour "B" will stop at Leon Berry's "Beast in the Basement" 2/8 Wurlitzer, at Stan and Vi Lechowicz's 4/20 Barton (originally a 4/10 and probably a 4/21 by now), and at Bob Schmidt's 2/7 hybrid with Kimball pipes and Wurlitzer console. Those choosing Temple Sholom will hear a 4/32 Wurlitzer, one of that builders few liturgical attempts. (Yes, your ears are hearing correctly.) That is the sound of two Tibias, (one a Tibia Plena) speaking into the huge octagonal stone room which is the Temple's sanctuary. Please note that due to tight scheduling and limited space you must have chosen to ride the bus in order to choose either home tour.



Car drivers cannot choose the home tour options.

Speaking of car drivers, please look at your registration material closely. You will have to follow some special instructions so that we may all stay on schedule. It would be simpler if you took the bus, and left the driving to us, or at least to Alden Stockebrand. You may remember him from 1969. He's the tall one. Alden says none of this year's buses will have square wheels.

While in the registration area, check the banquet seating chart. Ione Tedei will be happy to reserve a table for your group. "Ione, I hope you don't set the place on fire when serving the cherries jubilee!"

We will have to know not later than Saturday, June 25 if you intend to take the bus to the prelude show "Rosa by Starlight," at Rockford's Coronado Theatre on Tuesday, June 28, hosted by CATOE's sister chapter, Land of Lincoln.

To help keep all of you straight as to where you should be, and when, during the busy week to come, look for the Pocket Pal guide in your registration packet. While rooting around in the envelope you might want to glance at the souvenir brochure. Yours truly helped write it. I hope you think it ranks next to Hemingway and Thomas Wolfe.

From the registration desk you might want to go upstairs to the club floor where you will find the hospitality room and record shop. Bob Verduin promises ample stocks of artists records. Cathy Koenig and the hospitality committee will be on hand there, and throughout the convention, to answer your many questions. Just ask any of the people you see wearing turquoise-blue vests.

One of the things they can tell you is where to find the eight organ manufacturers which have been arranged for by Len Clarke and George Smith. Rodgers, Thomas, Allen and Wurlitzer will be here as will Gulbransen, Hammond, and Conn. As a special attraction, there will also be a six-rank theatre pipe organ on display, a product of Arndt-Carlson Organs.

All of the programs, which have been arranged by Doug Christensen and Russ Joseph, will last approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. There will be no intermissions. This format was used successfully on the Organ Safari to England last year

and will keep interest and enthusiasm high while eliminating "dead" time. You'll still hear more than twenty-three hours of organ music during the five-day run of the convention. Registration is heavy and space limited in many places, so please remember that recording for personal, non-commercial use is limited to hand-held battery operated equipment without extra stands or clamp-on mikes. Please note that no recording can be allowed at the George Wright concert. Camera fans please remember that flash pictures during shows are annoying to artists and listeners alike. If you really want my picture I'll pose after the show. So will the organists.

Even I get hungry, now and then, as I imagine you do, so you'll be glad to know that the hospitality committee can help you find a restaurant

***"There will be
no intermissions"***

you'll like. You will be at the hotel for all meals except for lunch on Thursday which is provided for in your registration fee. McDonald's is just up Wabash Ave. across from Marshall Field. Sorry, but I don't know where Colonel Sanders can be found, in case you like chicken like I do.

Friday night you'll be free to do as you wish. Saturday and Sunday afternoons will also be free if you don't choose an optional event. On Friday you might want to visit some of our other local favorites. CATOE's own Pearl White plays a Conn weekends at the Prime House, 4156 N. Kedzie, Chicago. Confirm that by calling 463-9732. Barbara Sellers, daughter of that other famous Chicago organ duo, Edna and the late Preston Sellers, plays an X-66 in the Garden Lounge in the Bismarck Hotel, 171 W. Randolph St.

Those interested in attending church on Sunday morning before the John Muri program at the Chicago may obtain information from the hospitality people. CATOE is trying to arrange to have mass said in the hotel.

Speaking of the Chicago Theatre,

manager Peter Miller assures me that when you walk through the doors from State St. it will be July 3, 1924, *complete* to the lobby piano player. I've seen the painters in the lobby and the electrician rebuilding the house chandeliers, so you can bet Mr. Miller will have the place shined up like a monument to Our Lady of Rapp and Rapp.

On Monday, July 4, after the George Wright program, a number of things will be available for those who aren't leaving immediately. Sally's Stage, Chicago's "musical eatery" with its 3/10 Barton, will be doing special luncheon shows. Details when you get here. If you're disappointed that our railroad afterflow was left at the station, there are some other things to do. (By the way, we could get a steam engine but Amtrak could not get us the coaches.) The Illinois Railway Museum is an hour's drive northwest of Chicago in Union, Ill., and the Chicago, South Shore, and South Bend, the only interurban running in the U.S., should still be running on July 4. Information can be obtained at hospitality central. If you're tired of organ music and trains, King Tut is visiting Chicago at the Field Museum and will be here until August 15.

It can be ten days of heaven late this month, and early next, if you arrive for the Theatre Historical Society Conclave and stay for "Chicago '77." The schedule is a busy one, but there are no all-day trips. You will be back here at the hotel between events. You will cover a lot, but you will not have to run to do so. There are many optional things to do at the hotel and throughout this big, wide, wonderful city which CATOE calls home. You may do as much or as little as you wish.

The organs have been tuned, the artists are practicing. Convention Chairman Bill Rieger and all his helpers have been working hard. CATOE Chairman Richard Sklenar's hair has turned a little grey, but even he is smiling. It's been a lot of work. All we need now is you. I'll see you in the lobby on June 28. Look for me with Elmer Fubb, G. Bandini, Effie Klotz, Bert Brouillon, Hal Steiner, and their father, Stu Green. Maybe Stu will even buy me a drink. I think there's a bar somewhere in this hotel. Welcome to Chicago! □