

FRED FEIBEL

*"To every man there opens
A high way and a low,
And every man decides
The way that he shall go."*

The lord has blessed each of us with certain special talents. Wisely, he has also given each of us a choice as to what to do with our talents. Some clutch them greedily to themselves, seeking only personal benefit. Others, aspire to develop and use their talents, but are caught in the stream of daily life, drifting back and forth — sometimes gaining, sometimes losing. Many expand their gifts to the fullest, enriching their own lives and those around them. A few great men dedicate their entire lives to developing, using, and sharing their talents, giving unselfishly of themselves and their gifts to all they meet. Such a man is Fred Feibel, this year's (1977) recipient of the "Golden Deeds Award" — a citation given by the Vero Beach Exchange Club.

Let me introduce you to Mr. Feibel, theatre organist, arranger and composer. Fred has been a resident of Vero Beach since 1962. His many accomplishments would fill a book. (See THEATRE ORGAN magazine October 1971, Vol. XIII #5.)

Fred has performed for the people of Vero Beach in over twenty concerts. The entire proceeds of his concerts have been donated to various religious, civic, and educational organizations in this community.

Many people are aware of Fred's wonderful talent, ready smile and charming sense of humor, but few have witnessed his patience and understanding as he works quietly from week to week with the young and with adults. A humble man who can always be depended upon, he has spent countless hours rehearsing with others so that their talents might be shown to best advantage. As a young boy said, while a member of a church handbell choir Fred

directed, "I could never let that man down."

An all-around musician, Fred has written innumerable organ compositions and arrangements. He has had over 100 pieces published. In his concerts in Vero Beach, he arranges much of the music for himself and for other artists, spending months and months in preparation. Fred would be the first to say that his local concerts would not be the successes they always are, were it not for the many local artists, musical groups and others who also donate their time and talents. Supporting him always and managing the many, many details and arrangements is Fred's lovely wife, Lenore.

Fred was Music Director for eleven years at the First Presbyterian Church in Vero Beach. He worked tirelessly with the adult and youth choirs, the handbell choir and guest artists, while faithfully carrying out his many duties as church organist. A number of outstanding special music programs were presented over the years.

Fred was elected to the Hall of Fame of the American Theatre Organ Society and performs all over the country at branches of that society. He is on the music staff at the Indian River Community College. He teaches organ and piano. He is a member of The Friends of the Vero Beach Community Theatre. He is on the Angel Advisory Board. Fred is a member of ASCAP (composer and arranger).

Fred has donated much time and talent to many local religious music programs at various churches.

The hours of pleasure he has brought local audiences in the unselfish giving of his time and talent would alone qualify him for an award, but his philanthropy with the proceeds from the concerts has so greatly

encouraged and aided the arts here in Vero Beach.

Through his concerts, the Riverside Theatre received a grand piano, an upright piano and stage curtains. A cash contribution of \$3650 was also made. Among other things, this provided new speakers and reconditioning of the beautiful organ for the theatre.

The Vero Beach Community Center was gifted with a piano and stage curtains.

The First Presbyterian Church received a piano, choir robes and handbells.

The American Association of University Women was given \$1200 for scholarships.

A project dear to the Feibel's hearts is the "Feibel Scholarship Trust Fund" at the Indian River Community College, which provides perpetual financial assistance for the tuition of worthy music students. Over \$7500 in concert proceeds have been donated to this fund.

No great artist can realize his ambitions and rise to the top of his field without the help and understanding of the woman he loves. Standing by him in all he does, is Fred's wonderful wife, Lenore. "Mrs. Feibel is my manager," he will say with a smile. While Fred is entertaining, Lenore ably handles the many business details. They are blessed with a daughter, Janet Hoffman. Her husband, Oliver, is presently studying to be a minister, and they, too, have a daughter.

How to explain the vast variety of this man's career? . . . FROM PARLOR TO PARAMOUNT . . . TO CHURCH . . . TO CONCERT . . . TO PHILANTHROPY!! Perhaps Fred's own words say it precisely, "IT'S A GRADUAL PERFECTION OF A GOD-GIVEN TALENT." □