



Jay and Gay Johnson, the organ-lovin' wine-makers. Their dog, seen slinking away in the shadow, refused to pose.

try out the organ. And organ enthusiasts are welcome to come over and play any time someone is home, evenings included. In addition the winery is available for private evening parties, and practice time is made available for students. The Johnsons even have an undeveloped campground on their Russian River frontage (no charge, but please reserve) for those who wish to stay a few days to fully enjoy the organ and the wine country.

Visitors to Northern California are invited to visit the Johnsons. They're located in a bucolic portion of the Alexander Valley, about fifty miles from San Francisco. The Napa Valley, with its larger nationally known wineries, is fast becoming one full parking lot on weekends, while the Alexander Valley, with around fifteen uncrowded wineries, is looking more and more attractive to those who would rather speak to a winery's owner than to a tour guide. To get on the mailing list, which gives dates of open houses, send your request to Johnson's Alexander Valley Winery, 8333 State Highway 128, Healdsburg, Calif. 95448 (phone 707-433-2319).

As the winery and organ expand we wish the Johnsons the best of luck. ATOS members can feel proud that the Johnsons have adopted the theatre organ as their trademark to be displayed on each bottle of wine they produce. □

THE CONSOLE ON THE COVER

by Harvey Roehl

This is the console of the 4/24 Robert Morton machine that is being rebuilt by a group of volunteers, to be placed in the Broome County Performing Arts Theatre known as "The Forum Theatre."

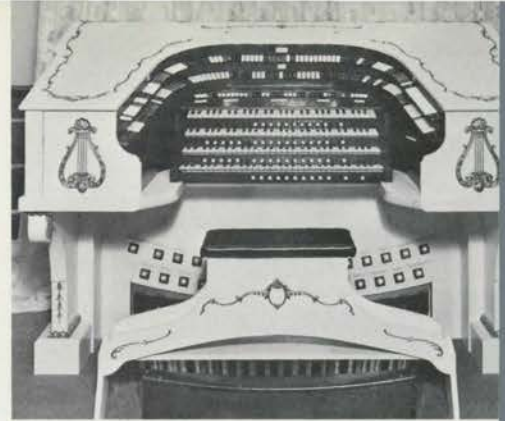
The Binghamton Savings Bank purchased the instrument as a gift to the community, and has financed everything but the labor of the restoration project, and of course many local industrial concerns have made contributions of components as well.

The organ was installed in 1922 in the America Theatre in Denver. This theatre was closed around 1930, and the organ was eventually to find its way to the Pillar of Fire Church, where it remained until 1970. It was then purchased by an organ broker in Michigan, who stored it in a chicken coop until the Bank bought it last year. Needless to say, it was pretty much a pile of junk when it arrived here!

The console was, for all practical purposes, built from scratch! George Melnyk is responsible for the technical aspects of the reconstruction and the re-engineering of the console, and Albert Emola gets credit for the artistic work including re-design of the shape of the legs, the design of the ormolu, and working with George on the refinishing. All the work was done in George's shop.

Upon completion of the work, the console was displayed in the Bank lobby for three weeks, where professional photographer Fred Snyder took this picture (at the Bank's expense) especially for the THEATRE ORGAN magazine.

The Bank plans to bring in some well-known theatre organist to play for a two-day re-dedicatory program when the organ is complete. Tickets will be free to local citizens who have only to ask for them at one of the offices of the Binghamton Savings Bank; tickets will also be given to organ enthusiasts from out-of-town



who write and ask for them.

In case you are wondering about the red piston, it has to do with a solid-state capture action engineered and built by George Melnyk. He plans also to incorporate a cassette unit which will capture all of the registrations used by the organist, such that he can crank them right back in the next time he plays the machine! □

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