

using the printed music. Don is an exceptional reader of music.

Don has often been at odds with our reviews (there are four of us) of his many records, even to the extent of writing to the editor in an effort to prevent the publication of a review that might not be as favorable as he would like. True, he has been a critic; we recall his review of a record for another publication, a record which had a painted-over label (the mag's policy). Don gave it the highest rating, and it turned out to be one of his own records. (Could he really

fail to recognize his own playing?) We can't compete with that style of review, nor would we want to.

In 20 years of reviewing organ records for publication we have dealt with the work of nearly all who have made records. That includes the great names of today and yesterday (including those old fogies Don doesn't feel could make it in today's scene). Not one of them complained about our treatment of their groovings. So, congratulations, Don — another "first."

Seriously, a review is bound to be

subjective, even when prepared by up to three reviewers, all trying to be objective. Our effort is toward stimulating interest and discussion, and the incoming flow of mail indicates we succeed. As Don points out, his object in releasing records is to make money. He may rest assured that there is no evidence that negative review comment, even in large doses, ever affected the sale of an album. So cheer up, Don, and keep making money.

W.S. Green □

Carl Greer Inn Changes Again

Those who attended the 1975 National Convention will remember Clyde Derby and the Sheraton Inn, as well as the former Seattle, Washington, Music Hall 4/16 Robert Morton theatre pipe organ. A lot has happened to the Inn and its first organist since that memorable day of 1975.

The Inn has had a series of owners and operators since its builder, Carl Greer, sold it several years ago. Simply stated, mismanagement caused a temporary closing of the doors and a silencing of the organ. The maintenance of the latter was sorely neglected and at the last it was mute.

Original owner Greer purchased the remains from the bankruptcy court, did some refurbishing and reopened the establishment on a limited basis. He found a new owner in James E. Richmond, a San Francisco Bay Area businessman, and now a member of Sierra Chapter.

Mr. Richmond hired veteran hotel manager Tom McMillan to reestablish Sierra Inn as an entertain-

ment center for Sacramento. A change in management and ownership of yet another Sacramento hotel had made longtime organist Evelyn Osburn, Mr. McMillan and a fine little orchestra available.

The establishment will be completely refurbished. The coffee shop is to be expanded but, there will be no formal dining room as in the original plan. The now barren inner court, encompassing the swimming pool, will become an atrium, a place of greenery. Local organ man Don Dingler has been hired to rework the ailing Morton. On September 24 and 25 the instrument was "showcased" to those chapter members and friends who could be reached by telephone. The main artist was former Radio City Music Hall organist Jimmy Paulin, Jr. Showcase it he did, along with Evelyn, Emil Martin and a few more chapter members. Jimmy was hired to play the 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. spot Mondays through Thursdays. Evelyn plays from 4:30 to 7:30 Tuesday through Saturday. The Alan King Orchestra plays Friday and Saturday nights. The response to all these fine musicians has been great — slow at first for the pipe organ but that condition has improved greatly.

Original organ maintenance man Don Zeller has been hired to handle the chores of keeping the Robert Morton going.

Theatre pipe organ lovers owe a great deal to Mr. Richmond, Mr. McMillan and all those who have a hand in the operation of the Sierra Inn. Members of the American Theatre Organ Society are encouraged to make themselves known and to

patronize this establishment when they are in the Sacramento area and have need of public accommodations.

Clyde Derby is seriously ill and unable to play the instrument he loved and nurtured through its initial installation and a few trials and tribulations thereafter. The Sierra Chapter has honored Clyde for his part in preserving the theatre pipe organ and its sounds with a scholarship. Letters and cards from his friends are most welcome: Mr. Clyde Derby, 3506 Morrow, Sacramento, CA 95821. He is seriously ill and has been for almost a year. It is a sorry thing to say, but only a miracle will return him to the bench — that is the one thing more than one of us wants to see. He was, more than anyone, responsible for Sierra Chapter's formation. Always ready and willing to help in chapter affairs and the same goes for his beautiful wife Kathy. The scholarship, in Clyde's name, is to be awarded in 1978 to a Sacramento Area music student. □

Sierra Inn owner James E. Richmond (left) talks with organist Evelyn Osburn on the still-to-be-refinished dance floor at Sierra Inn. This is the Sacramento area's largest dance floor in regular use. Evelyn introduced her "March of Dimes March" during an informal get-together of Sierra chapter members and friends at the former Carl Greer Sheraton Inn.



Evelyn Osburn at the console, with Jimmy Paulin (right center) and Don Zeller (extreme right), who maintains the 4/16 Robert Morton pipe organ in the Sierra Inn. Sierra chapter members are in the background.

