

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER

The first quarterly meeting of 1958 was held at the "19th Street" Theater in Allentown, Pa. The organ is a 2m/6r Moller, adequate for the size of the theatre and well complemented by good acoustics. It should be mentioned that George Mac Neal helped to rescue this organ from the fate of most old theatre organs, and aided in restoring it to its present fine condition.

The second meeting of the year took place at the home of Mr. Charles Dix, Leesport, Pa. Mr. Dix's 3m/12r Marr and Colton, formerly in the Capitol Theater, Reading, Pa., is installed in a studio built in a barn behind his home. The beautiful setting in the country made it ideal for the picnic meeting planned with the weather cooperating beautifully. Leonard MacClain entertained in an uproarious fashion with some still and community sing slides (from his extensive collection of silent film days fame) and gave the typical Wurlitzer type accompaniment to two rented silent films.

The third meeting was divided into two parts. The group met first at the home of Mr. Reginald Watson, Manhasset, L.I. Mr. Watson's fine 3m/14r Wurlitzer installation is a marvelous example of what can be done to get real "lush" theatre type Wurlitzer sound in a home despite the totally different acoustical environment. The group then moved over to Merrick, L. I. to the home of Mr. Wayne Schmidt, who has managed to achieve very outstanding results with his 2m/8r Wurlitzer.

The last meeting of the year occurred at the studio of Mr. Richard Loderhose, Jamaica, L.I., whose Paramount Studio Wurlitzer, enlarged by almost ten ranks, is absolutely sensational. It is a 4m/30r, at last count, as it is still growing. It is in beautiful condition, the installation expertly done, and sound and acoustics of the studio are superb. Ann Leaf was featured organist at the meeting, which also proved to be the dedication concert for the organ in its new home.

Due to Mr. Loderhose's kind invitation to chapter members to a private concert at his studio, many were treated to an encore of this lovely organ. On this occasion, Ed Gress did the honors at the console, with many notables of the organ world 'taking a turn' later in the afternoon.

The Chapter acknowledges the wonderful hospitality accorded us by our various hosts, and thanks each of them for the opportunity of seeing and hearing these fine instruments. It would be hard to top the past year's activities, yet we are in hopes of more of the same to come in the new year.

We hope this little account of our travels will be interpreted as an invitation to all A.T.O.E. members in our area to join us in future activities.

*Esther A. Sweet
Secretary-Treasurer*

MIDWEST CHAPTER

The second meeting of the Midwest Chapter or A.T.O.E. was held Sunday, May 18, 1958 at the Palace Theatre, Gary, Ind. John Shanahan, Vice President, welcomed all members and



Officers of Delaware Valley Chapter welcoming new member Ashley Miller. (Left to right) George MacNeal-Chairman, Dotty MacClain-Vice Chairman and Chairman of Program Committee, Ashley Miller, Esther Sweet-Secretary-Treasurer, Jim Sweet, (Kneeling) Bill Floyd and Stanley Warzala, Program committee Members.

their guests. After giving a brief outline of the history of the 3m/9r Kilgen theatre organ, he introduced the first soloist of the day, John Muri. Mr. Muri, a charming gentleman and an excellent organist, delighted his audience with various pop selections, including Porgy and Bess and An American in Paris. His clever performance of the light classics was very reminiscent of the silent movie era. Muri, a student of Arthur Gutow, played in many of Chicago's and the Calumet Area's leading theatres.

The second soloist of the day was Jack Gustafson, popular young organist of Rollareana Skating Rink in Wheaton, Ill. Jack, who specializes in Latin-American music, did a fine job and was received enthusiastically by all present. He has installed a six rank Wurlitzer organ in his home and a future meeting will be held there.

Credit for restoring this instrument goes to Mr. Tex Richter, organ artisan of the Chicago area. Mr. Richter has altered the sound of the Kilgen considerably. He has replaced the original Clarinet with a Hope-Jones Post Horn from the Covent Garden Theatre in Chicago. The Kilgen strings have been replaced by Kimball strings and there is an actual accordian, which is playable from the solo manual. The organ sounds very large for a nine rank instrument.

Our next meeting is set to be held at the Chicago Stadium. Plans to hold a meeting at the Rialto Theatre in Joliet had to be cancelled because of the extensive water damage done to the organ.

John Seng, Secretary

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Summer activities were started with a full day spent in Sacramento, Calif. The morning session was spent enjoyably at the Alhambra Theatre where we were guests of the manager, Mr. Richard Mears and the United California Theatres. Judd Walton introduced the 3m/11r Robert Morton and gave a demonstration of its various tonal possibilities. Members and guests who followed at the console were Fred Clapp, Clyde Derby, Don Reed, Aletha Bowman, Warren White, Bob Vaughn, and Larry Vanucci. The morning session was finished off by a sparkling performance by the featured organist, Dave Quinlan, who regularly plays the 2m/6r Wurlitzer at the 615 Club in Benicia. After luncheon, many members accepted Clyde Derby's invitation to hear and play his Model 210 Wurlitzer installed in his home in nearby Carmichael.

The August meeting was held at the Marina Theatre in San Francisco. The organ installed there is a 2m/6r (open diapason, violin, tibia clausa, trumpet, vox humana, cremone) Robert Morton which has been capably kept in condition by Larry Vanucci in his "off" hours from the Lost Week End night club where he is regularly heard at the console of the Wurlitzer. Larry introduced the organ and gave its history and then turned it over to members to play. At show time the meeting was adjourned to Fishermen's Wharf for luncheon.

The final meeting of the year was held Dec. 28, being co-sponsored by the Wurlitzer Organ Guild of Oakland. Mr. Dewey Cagle, president of the W.O.G. and an enthusiastic member of the N.C.C., "MC"ed the meeting which was held on the 3rd floor of the lithography establishment of Gregory and Falk in San Francisco. Vern Gregory of this firm has combined a Wurlitzer and a Smith organ, added a 3rd manual to the Style D Wurlitzer console, and at concert time had 13 ranks playing.

Our host introduced the organ and invited members of both organizations to play. After intermission, Larry Vanucci, the featured artist, performed at the console. Larry demonstrated his versatility by playing a wide variety of numbers including ballads, Latin American rhythms, boogie beats, and blues.

Bob Jacobus, Chairman



Larry Vanucci, organist at The Lost Weekend, S.F., featured at the Northern California Chapter December Meeting. Vern Gregory's 3-13 Wurlitzer-Smith.