

Up in San Francisco they are goin to have a Solar Festival and a Magick Show. Of course the big noise will be in Washinton where they will be a Solar Fair and a Public Concert and a Conference of Experts at Geo. Washinton University. Like Mayor Bradleys says, in 1970 they had Earth Day, so now we get to have Sun Day. I spose pretty soon we will get to have Moon day and it will be on any old day except Monday.

Some of the things they are planin to do are pretty cute. Like for instince they will have a sunrise celebrashun on Cadillac Mountin in Maine which is the spot where the sun hits the United States first. Then they will have a tour of the Solar Homes, a whole dozen of them, that has been bilt in Martinsburg, W. Va. Then they will be a Sunrise Concert at the United Nashun Bildin in Noo York. The big idea is to get people to usin Solar Power and givin it a fair shake like if somebody puts up a solar house they will be a law that nobody can put up a higher house next to him that will keep the sun out. And like they will have laws that will keep the bilders from chargin too much, and then some more laws that will give a cut on the taxes, and I spose it must be a pretty good thing because they is a lot of important men that is runnin it.

I pick up a lot of informashun out of the paper, like for instince did you know that they is more organs sold than any other insterment except pianos and geetars? That's a fact. I guess. If you can beleave everythin you read in the papers. Like it says that in 1950 they was one organ sold to 17 pianos, but in 1960 they was only one and seven-tenth pianos to one organ. That piano must of been a dilly. But probily it was better than in 1975 when they was only one eleventh of one piano sold more than one organ. All I know is that if they was only goin to sell a part of a piano the best part to leave out is those last half a dozen notes at the top which sound like hittin a tin plate. □

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Atlanta, Georgia  
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FEBRUARY / MARCH, 1978

## In Retrospect...

# A REFLECTION

on the

# WESTERN RESERVE REGIONAL

by Betty Heffer

As Lowell Ayars reminded us, a great measure of the success of our theatre organ conventions consists of the joys inherent in sharing the music with friends old and new.

And so it was in Cleveland, Ohio last November as the Western Reserve Chapter welcomed fellow ATOS members to its Super '77 Regional Convention during the Thanksgiving Day weekend.

The meeting and greeting, the conversation cum coffee, the touring together in inclement weather — all helped establish the leitmotif.

A recitative proclaiming that Dennis James "must be a juggler to manage all those stop tabs and keyboards

and pedals simultaneously" was provided by a local resident who had won two tickets of admission from a radio station. With a background of classical piano, she was enthralled with Heidi's contribution to the Saturday evening program at Gray's Armory. With her first exposure to a Wurlitzer accompaniment of a Laurel and Hardy comedy, she was enchanted. Another convert to theatre organ, folks!

Now for a scherzo or two. We, the audience at Keith Chapman's concert in the Cleveland Convention Center, were seated on the stage. And when Keith requested the aid of two itinerant page turners capable

Registration desk, (left to right) Phyllis Merhan, Elaine Hawks and registrants.

(Packard Photo)





Masonic Auditorium, Tom Hazleton concert.



ATOS President, Ray Snitil welcomes conventioners. (Packard Photo)

Dick Geyser, SUPER '77 co-chairman and Rodney Elliott WRTOS chairman (standing at mike).

(Packard Photo)



of reading music, his volunteers became Little Denny and Little Tommy. They could indeed read music, as Dennis James proved in a duet with Keith on the big Skinner and as Tom Hazleton proved the following morning with his concert on the Masonic Temple's 4/40 Austin.

Wisconsin's Perry Petta won the Youth Organ Playing Competition, and the encouragement of all young theatre organists will reward their future audiences as well. Runners-up Phil Bordeleau and Chris Phillips accredited themselves in fine fashion.

John Muri, who played the opening program at Gray's Armory on Friday evening, projected us onto a vicarious trip through legendary lore. His memorable accompaniment of *The Vanishing American* led us into becoming involved, engrossed, and empathetic with the role of the Red Man in the pages of our national history.

The splendor of the church equalled the splendor of the organ for Richard Fettkether's Sunday afternoon concert. A powerful Casavant is housed in the First United Methodist Church — truly beautiful in every way.

And oh — the theatres! The murals, the ceilings, the pillars, the winding stairways, the chandeliers, and the restorative efforts: — the Playhouse Square Theatre Tour provided them all.

Now back to Lowell Ayars. Lowell played — and sang — the closing program in Gray's Armory on Sunday. How appropriate that he sent us on our way home on a positive note — "I'll Be Seeing You."

Thank you, Western Reserve. We enjoyed seeing you.

Linda Mathews, daughter of Gottfried, the organ builder, and Dick Canda, local Wurlitzer dealer. (Packard Photo)



John Muri and Claude Hawks, MC and co-chairman. (Packard Photo)



Perry Petta, youth organ playing competition winner.