

connect with the trailer, and by 8 p.m. the procession headed for the North.

At Paraparaumu, ATOS member, Len Southward had been storing the blower and other parts, and these were awaiting our arrival. The final lift was completed, dinner was served and we called it a day.

Len is the owner of the 3/16 Wurlitzer special, Opus 2075, which was previously in the Civic Theatre in Auckland. This will eventually be installed in a concert hall that he is building, in conjunction with a vintage car museum — but that will be another story.

Sunday, at 7 a.m. saw us on the road again, all in high spirits, one of the most beautiful days you could ever have in mid-winter, with the mountains glistening in their mantles of snow. With a stop at Taupo for lunch, the mountainous area all behind, Jumbo rolled on, bearing a canvas that announced the return of the Wurlitzer to Auckland. We were welcomed at 6 p.m. by Vice Chairman Jack Granwal, who had organized a band of willing helpers, and by 7:30 p.m. Opus 1475 was housed in its new temporary home, the Hollywood Cinema. Here it will be reassembled and played until some future date, when, hopefully, it will be installed in a concert hall to be built at MOTAT.

A "live" weekend of music at MOTAT was presented the following week and over 12,000 people visited the museum and to see the new arrival. The console of Opus 1475 was on view, and the grand old lady smiled at everyone. For many people, young and old, it was the first time they had seen the control centre of a Wurlitzer pipe organ.

Music filled the air for two days, organ societies and dealers provided instruments and players — they were everywhere, in the fire station, the car museum and the oddest of places. The mammoth fairground organ, the barrel organ and player pianos worked overtime, as did a pipe band, a choir, strolling players, a xylophone and harmonica player. Now comes the task of rebuilding the organ, and, under the direction of John Parker, enthusiasts gather each Sunday to help in the project. All are helping to make history and to demonstrate the aims and ideals of the American Theatre Organ Society. □

## AN APOLOGY

### To Wallace Baumann of Knoxville

Mr. Baumann researched and wrote the cover story, "The Beautiful Tennessee," for the October/November issue of THEATRE ORGAN. In the publication of the story, he was given no credit for his work.

This is particularly embarrassing because the story shows that a great effort was put forth and much time was consumed documenting the article. He went so far as to search files, old newspapers, and other documents in order to list all the organists who had played the Tennessee Wurlitzer.

We offer no excuses for this gross oversight and can only humbly apologize to Wallace Baumann, admitting that he deserves more than an apology after the fact. The lack of credits for his efforts is inexcusable.

It is sincerely hoped that Mr. Baumann will accept the apologies of the staff of THEATRE ORGAN and the editor, George Thompson.

# Knoxville's Tennessee Theatre Closed

by Wallace W. Baumann

The Tennessee Theatre, the cover story in the October-November 1978 THEATRE ORGAN, closed October 3, 1978, just two days after its 50th birthday, which passed unnoticed. Two months unpaid rent caused the C. B. Atkin Estate, owners of the building, to ask the lessee, Tennessee Theatre Classics, to vacate the premises.

Poor management, and a completely unprofessional approach in operating the theatre caused its demise. Attendance at first was very good, but poor advertising and poor marquee and exterior sign displays were early evidence that the operation was doomed to failure.

The theatre was closed November 3, 1977, by ABC Southeastern Theatres and was reopened March 15, 1978 by the new company with much fanfare. The theatre was opened again for one evening, October 19, for a special benefit showing of *The Hasty Heart* starring Patricia Neal, former Knoxvillean, who appeared in person in connection with the dedication of the Patricia Neal Re-

habilitation Center of Fort Sanders Presbyterian Hospital, Knoxville, sponsor of the program. Billy Barnes, Tennessee house organist from 1937 to 1942, returned to play the 3/14 Mighty Wurlitzer for the event. □

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Sincerely yours,  
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