

GAYLORD CARTER PRESENTS CONCERT IN JUNEAU

August 5th, found over 400 theatre organ buffs crowding the State Office Building lobby in Juneau, Alaska, to hear Gaylord Carter present a concert at the newly dedicated Kimball Theatre pipe organ. The occasion was the docking of the cruise ship T.S.S. Fairsea, with 120 members of the Organists' Sea Safari group aboard. The group is an enthusiastic gathering of organ buffs who take cruises annually and enjoy being entertained by some of the top organists in the country.

The Sea Safari group is headed by Anne Olson of Coronado, Calif., who started this cruise concept on the West Coast five years ago. Until this year the Safaris were one week cruises, but the Alaska trip was the first time a two-week cruise was booked. It was a tremendous success as it gave more time for organ events, plus time to enjoy the various ship-board activities that were offered.

The pipe organ concert came about when Dick Engen, director of State Museums and Libraries in Alaska contacted Anne Olson regarding the possibilities of such a concert when he heard that the Sea Safari group would be aboard the Fairsea and would be making a stop in Juneau. It was decided the concert should be held at 12:30 noon in-between the ship's scheduled sightseeing tours. He also made it possible for the group to have the use of the organ after the concert for those who wished to try their hand at playing the pipe organ.

The organ is a 2/8 Kimball, originally installed in the Coliseum The-

atre in Juneau in 1928 (February issue, see THEATRE ORGAN Volume 20, Number 1, "Our Last Frontier"). The organ was donated to the state in 1975 as a "museum piece, to be restored and made playable, to remain in Juneau and be installed in a public place." The Save the Organ committee raised over \$30,000 for the restoration and the organ was dedicated May 1, 1977. It is used for noon concerts and other gatherings.

The Sea Safari group stayed all afternoon and organists Bud Iver-

son, Gene Roberson and Chuck Wright each displayed their talents by performing for the group. The three artists were on the cruise with Gaylord Carter, and all gave concerts and seminars on two organs installed on the ship for the occasion. Gaylord brought along some of his silent films and played for them in the ship's theatre.

Gaylord's concert had people standing and cheering and was most enthusiastically received by the people of Juneau. □

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