

(acceptable buzz) and so on, are all blown away. I realize that these things aren't important on a theatre organ diapason, but they are important on a classical organ's principal. Mr. Weisenberger doesn't discern between the two types of instruments.

High cut-ups and higher wind pressures are suggested by Mr. Weisenberger in order to produce adequate volume for large stadiums and coliseums. Certainly this is not the only route. One should not expect an unamplified 9-foot grand piano to fill the New Orleans Superdome. With high quality electronic amplification it can retain most of its tone qualities at a higher volume level. A small, low pressure pipe organ could have the same treatment. I would rather listen to it than an organ with the same number of ranks playing on 50 to 100 inches wind pressure. Certainly I am not endorsing electronic tone production over acoustical tone production. It is my hope that electronic organs can co-exist with pipe organs in the same way that the electric piano co-exists with the acoustical piano. I am endorsing electronic amplification of acoustical instruments in cases where the unamplified instrument will not provide the necessary volume. This includes pipe organs.

Mr. Weisenberger condemns the organ building profession for its lack of scientific research. Actually, there is more scientific research involved in pipe organ building now than there ever was in the past. He hasn't done the necessary research to find this out though. He also fails to realize that pipe organ building is an art first and foremost. He insinuates that pipe organ building is a dead or dying profession. I find that it is alive and growing. However, if his suggestions were to be taken seriously by organ builders, I'm sure that organ building would die a sure, sudden death.

I commend THEATRE ORGAN for many of its fine technical articles pertaining to the pipe organ. One of these would be Allen Miller's article, "The Mystery of Soldering Pipes." However, certain articles seem to slip through the screening process and I find that regrettable.

Sincerely,
Richard Swanson
Grand Ledge, Mich. ☐



CHAPTER NOTES

Let us know what's happening in YOUR Chapter!

Send Photos and News to:

GEORGE THOMPSON
P.O. BOX 1314
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA 93902

Deadlines

Jan. 1st. for Feb./Mar.
Mar. 1st. for Apr./May
May 1st. for June/July
July 1st. for Aug./Sept.
Sept. 1st. for Oct./Nov.
Nov. 1st. for Dec./Jan.

ATLANTA

On December 16th, the chapter met at the Music Grinder (Marietta, Georgia). The slate of newly-elected officers for 1980 include: James West, chairman; Jane Torrell, vice chairman; Warren Williams, secretary; and Wanda Carey, treasurer.

The chapter cheerfully voted to hold six of the 1980 meetings at the Music Grinder. The additional use of "Winifred," the restaurant's 3/24 Wurlitzer, will greatly enhance some of our meetings and programs in the new year. Many thanks from the chapter to Dick and Audrey Weber for allowing us to use this fine Wurlitzer.

Speaking of Dick Weber, the chapter learned that Dick's 4/16 Page is soon to be playing in the warehouse of chapter member Walt Winn. The first "toot" called out on December 19th, with much celebration by those in attendance. Walt and Donna Winn have labored greatly over the Page's refurbishment, with the help and patience of members John Tanner, Ric McGee and James Thrower. The progress has been painstaking at times, but according to Walt, we may be able to

hear the first program in February or March.

Still another pipe organ will speak anew this year with kudos to the dedication of John Tanner, James Jobson and James Thrower. This is a 3/26 Moller they have installed in the Brookhaven Methodist Church in Atlanta. The organ is leased to the church with the understanding that it will be available to the chapter for meetings and special programs. Since many of our members include church organists, we can expect some fine programs on this beautiful instrument.

After the chapter business was conducted at the December meeting, it was this writer's time to provide the musical entertainment. Request cards went to all chapter members, and for an hour-and-a-half, the music-lovers' potpourri ranged from Tchaikovsky to well-loved Christmas carols. What a relief it was to get other requests instead of the same "dirty thirty" that are requested night after night at the restaurant!

The afternoon concluded with a sumptuous buffet. Open console was enjoyed by all. The warm fellowship stirred interest anew for our chapter and we all look forward to the new year, filled with great organs and fine programs.

JAY MITCHELL

BEEHIVE

On Sunday November 18, 1979 the chapter members were guests of Lawrence Bray at the Organ Loft, Salt Lake City, Utah. In the business portion of the meeting a letter from the Salt Lake County Commission was read thanking the chapter for their efforts in restoring the Capitol Theatre organ. Harry Weirauch reported on the status of the project, though completion is still some



Lawrence Bray in the main chamber of the Organ Loft in Salt Lake City.

months away. New officers elected for 1980 were: Wayne Russell, chairman; Gene Breinholt, vice chairman; and Clare Briggs, secretary-treasurer.

During brunch, complements of the chapter, we were treated to a "live" concert on the 5/32 Wurlimorton Loft organ by none other than the Poet of the Organ, Jesse Crawford. Through the magic of the Wurlitzer roll player the organ faithfully reproduced the numbers played by Jesse Crawford many years ago.

After brunch members were treated to open console.

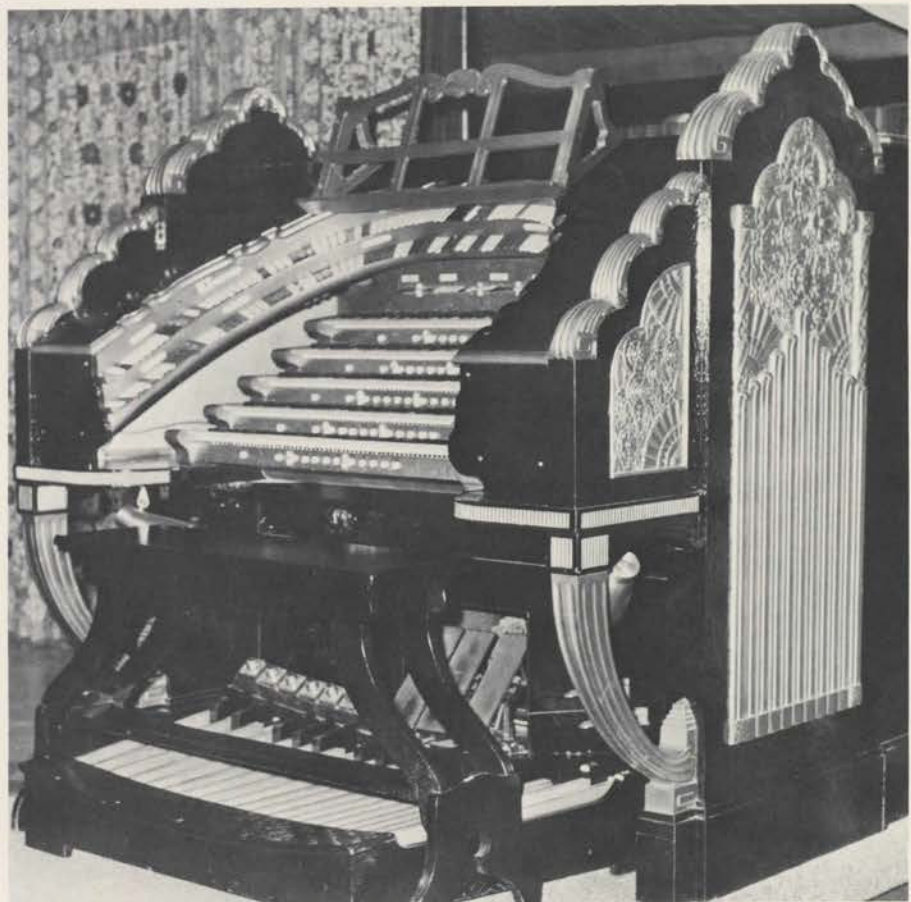
Sufficient funds were received from Sale Lake County to carry our Capitol Theatre organ restoration project through to completion. Excellent progress has been made.

The telephone company and Western Electric Company and their employees have donated materials and labor and installed new cables to run from the chambers to the stage level.

Regulators have been removed, sent to Los Angeles for re-leathering and returned. Seth Anderson of the Provo Pipes and Pizza and his father transported this material to and from LA.

The console has been completely stripped ready for refinishing. Lon Durrant, proprietor of Manfred's Finishing Shop, has offered the use of his facilities, equipment and experience in directing our repainting of the console and bench. We expect to take him up on his offer in the near future.

With the help of Mike Ohman, who purchased a new Devtronix console for the Reseda, California, restaurant, along with George Wright, and several others, we were able to purchase new electric action magnetic stop tabs for the console. We might mention that these new switches completely eliminate the need for air at the console, and will



The Organ Loft console.

deprive the local mice from their free lunch (pneumatic leather) and their race track where they held a steeplechase in and around the contact wires on the stop rail.

We have removed the percussion actions from the east chamber, and they now are in the work room in the basement of the theatre. We didn't anticipate the necessity of reworking these percussions, but fifty plus years has taken its toll and they require releathering as well as a general clean up.

Come one, come all, we finally have the facility and a project to involve all Beehive members, past, present and future.

HARRY WEIRAUCH AND
CLARE BRIGGS

CHICAGO AREA

The organist team of Preston and Edna Sellers was active in the heyday of the movie palace. Edna is still getting around to many organ functions and CATOE honored her on her 80th birthday last August. She was surprised and very grateful for this recognition. George Wright says that Edna is one of his best girl friends.

In October we were treated to a magnificent program by Tom Helms at Maine Township High School in Des Plaines, Ill. Tom is a terrific musician who follows his musical career with sincere devotion. He is active in organ restoration, radio, TV and organizational work. His program at Maine had great variety and the school drama group offered interesting lighting and background effects to compliment Tom's playing.

During the Chicago Papal Mass in Grant Park, organ music was furnished by a Rodgers Model 990. ATOS member Bob Halleman, who manages the Rodgers Studio in Elmhurst, Ill., was instrumental in this aspect of the Mass.

Worshippers going to and from the Mass were also treated to prelude and postlude sacred music along Michigan Ave., near the river. Beautiful Sound Music Store personnel had speakers outside their premises giving forth appropriate music from one of their Allen consoles.

The new bimonthly *Chicago Daily News* interviewed CATOE member Paul Schreves who has a unique Conn 650 organ including a wind-operated toy counter and a Decatur

Vibes addition. Paul gave the reporter a full description of his equipment which resulted in an effective article. Another reporter interviewed this writer regarding the general history and operation of pipe organs and the function of ATOS. This article was in the same issue.

In November our membership business meeting was followed by a musical social with Jack Olander at the Downers Grove High School organ. Jack said he was borrowing numbers from many famous organists. Jack doesn't need to borrow as he is quite versatile and adept and gave a beautiful program.

CATOE's holiday show was at the Deerpath Theatre, Lake Forest, Ill. This is a unique house of many years standing with a 3/10 Geneva pipe organ. It is kept up fairly well, but rumors predict a dim future.

Donna Parker was our soloist and gave an excellent program despite a bit of organ misbehavior. Formerly from L.A., Donna is now performing at the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis. She displayed her good musicianship and experience and cued a Laurel & Hardy comedy superbly. Carols were part of the sing-along. It was an enjoyable afternoon.

Holy Name Cathedral is one of the better-known centers of the Catholic Church. The Pope's Chicago visit included a Mass at the Cathedral resulting in tremendous crowds. CATOE's January social was at Holy Name where we heard their excellent organ played by their staff organist. Refreshments and socializing followed in the church hall.

An Early Bird Christmas social was held at the Chicago Theatre, 7:30 a.m. Sunday, December 9th. Ned Siebert, tonal engineer for Kimball Organ Corp., gave a beautiful holiday program. There was time for all wishing to plunk a few chords on that famous organ, to do so. They all loved it! Those stalwart early birds!

The Aragon Ballroom tried roller skating, but that idea rolled right out the door after a short trial!

Our cancelling a concert because of a filthy theatre resulted in that movie house getting a good cleaning. SO our March 20th concert will have Hal Pearl at the Patio Theatre's console — the 4/17 Barton heard during our '77 Convention. If you have any "dusty" theatres in your area, do

some hollering. It may do some good!

ALMER BROSTROM

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Our chapter is continuing to work on various ranks of the pipe organ for installation into the Tampa Theatre in 1980. In the meantime, we are planning a musical festival in January at the Tampa Theatre presenting *Sound of the Silents* featuring six silent movies of Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton with Ewell O. Stanford, Jr. and Charles G. Stanford accompanying at an electronic organ.

A Christmas party and business meeting was held at the home of Winona Sullivan on December 9th.

Officers elected for 1980 are: Charles G. Stanford, chairman; Earl N. Wiltse, vice chairman; Winona A. Sullivan, secretary; and Jean Wiltse, treasurer.

CENTRAL INDIANA

The November meeting, with 149 members and guests attending, was truly a special occasion. Not only was the 3/16 Louisville Uniphone pipe organ at Emerich Manual High School at its best due to the extra tender loving care given to it by its "keepers," but we were privileged to have Rob Calcaterra as our guest artist. Rob, a graduate of the Indiana University School of Music, is now an Indianapolis resident and teaching choral music at North Central High School, as well as finishing additional academic majors at I.U. and doing private teaching. Rob won the Indiana finals on organ for the 1980 Liberace Entertainer Search. He will represent Indiana in the regional semifinal competition.

Rob's program demonstrated his exceptional talent and ability. He delighted the audience with his adept versatility of selections and organ registration. His enjoyable choices included "Honey," "Indian Summer," "Poet and Peasant Overture I & II" and "The Stars and Stripes Forever" with a piccolo solo at the end. It is no wonder the audience gave him a standing ovation and why we in the CIC-ATOS are so appreciative of having Rob as a member! Plenty of open console time was offered at this fine pipe organ.



Rob Calcaterra at the 3/16 Louisville Uniphone, Emerich Manual High School, Indianapolis.

(Jerry Lamb Photo)

The December meeting was at the Hedback Theatre early Sunday morning, December 16th. The results of the election of officers for 1980 were given. Bob Goldstine of Ft. Wayne gave us a brief, but delightful program at the 2/10 Page pipe organ. Some of his selections were some that we don't normally get to hear such as the theme song from the RKO radio program and ballads such as "Here I'll Stay" and "Open Your Heart." His ending song "We Need a Little Christmas" certainly helped spur our holiday spirits. We thank Bob for his enjoyable performance. Who else but theatre organ devotees would get up early for a meeting? The reason for the early meeting was due to the fact that most of those attending the morning meeting were ticket holders to a very special event that afternoon.

The Paramount Music Palace pre-

sented Donna Parker and Bill Vlasak in a most memorable Christmas concert on Sunday afternoon. Not only was the "Mighty Wurlitzer" enjoyed, but Bill also played a 7-foot Steinway grand piano. The combination of selections, with solos at the organ, or piano, and duets by Donna and Bill, offered the people of Indianapolis a truly-unique and exceptional musical event. This Christmas concert more than reaffirmed our pride and pleasure in having the Paramount Music Palace and these two highly-talented artists in Indianapolis.

Donna and Bill graciously gave acknowledgments of the composers of each selection as well as special, or interesting information about each piece. The mastery at the keyboards of these two fine instruments by these two superbly-talented musicians provided those attending with an unbelievably beautiful concert. The concert was repeated on Monday, December 17th, because Sunday's concert was sold out.

BARBARA J. ATKINSON

CENTRAL OHIO

Beautiful autumn weather here in central Ohio was punctuated by a visit by Ron Rhode at the Ohio Theatre on November 3rd. Ron presented a highly-varied program for his first encounter with the 4/20 Robert Morton and was well-received by a large audience.

The November meeting of C.O.T.O.S. was held on Sunday afternoon, November 25th, at Pontone's music center in Grove City. The object of interest was the A.O.B. electronic organ, demonstrated very ably by Tom Sullivan of Grove City, Ohio, and

our own Bob Shaw.

This meeting also saw a very productive business session with the planning of several future meeting dates and the possibility of some group excursions discussed. The chapter was also informed of the donation of \$500 to the Wurlitzer fund from a local electronics firm.

A fire in the Worthington High School auditorium, in the middle of November, left no damage to the chapter's Wurlitzer, though Willard Ebner, our crew chief, wasn't secure until he could check it out himself — can't really blame him!

The highlight of the C.O.T.O.S. year was the annual Christmas party at the Ohio Theatre. Betsy Richard presented a delightful program of popular tunes and traditional Christmas music at the Morton, followed by a wealth of talent during open console. The masterful hands of Alberta Lipp and Martha Love presented a feast of holiday goodies in the Batelle Room throughout the evening. With an attendance of about 50 people, there were old acquaintances to renew and some new friends to greet as well. The whole evening proved to be a standout beginning for the holiday season.

BOB AND PATTI CLARK

CONN. VALLEY

We held our November meeting at the Morris' residence in Madison, CT, where, in addition to other instruments, there is an extensively modified Rodgers Model 33-E electronic organ. It was enjoyed by all who played and heard it. Modifications were done by chapter members Allen Miller and Don Hyde, experts well-known in organ circles.

Our organist of the evening was Mark Renwick, of Sudbury, Mass. We have heard him before so we expected and received a fine program.

The election of officers for 1980 also took place. Elected were: Norm Ray, chairman; Paul Plainer, vice chairman; Lynn Price, secretary; Bert Rankin, treasurer; Joe Grait, program chairman. We are fortunate to have these willing and able members manage our affairs during the coming year.

Those of us at home Thanksgiving evening were able to tune in Connecticut Public Television stations and see and hear Rosa Rio in a half-hour program taped earlier at the Thomaston Opera House. From the console at the Marr & Colton, Rosa



Betsy Richard played the Robert Morton for the Christmas party in the Ohio Theatre, Columbus.

(Bob Clark Photo)

reminded about earlier times in movie theatres and radio studios, with some interesting anecdotes. Heard from the pipes were some of the radio program music and theme songs with which Rosa had been intimately associated. It was an interesting half-hour, especially for ATOS members.

On December 1st we enjoyed our 1979 Christmas party at Le Cordon Bleu Restaurant in Waterbury.

Winding up our activities for 1979 were the December 8th and 9th concerts by Ron Rhode and his brother Charles at Thomaston Opera House. Ron has a nice touch at the keyboard and Charles has a nice way with a good voice. The program was most enjoyable and was very well-received. The music included popular numbers and seasonal Christmas selections, several of which were included in a sing-along.

Work on our organ installation at Shelton High School is progressing well, thanks to a small, but dedicated crew led by Norm Turner. Another ten or twelve months should bring music from this effort.

Our March 15th-16th concert at Thomaston Opera House will feature Bill Thomson. Information and tickets are available from Concert Tickets, Box 426, Seymour, CT 06483. Telephone, (203) 888-9696.

WALLACE F. POWERS

EASTERN MASS.

Energy shortages? Not with Ron Rhode, our young and brilliant fall concert artist who exhibited so much at Wurlitzers in both Stoneham Town Hall and Babson College, November 16th and 17th, respectively! Two locations and two completely different programs.

Chairman Royal Schweiger introduced our guest at the Stoneham console. Kern's spirited "Who" made a great opener and Ron quickly established an affinity with his audience. His varied, colorful program had wide appeal with such offerings as a medley from *Annie*, some Gershwin, Berlin, hymns, marches, waltzes — even "Waltzing Matilda" from his just-completed 3-week concert tour of Australia.

The new generation was certainly not forgotten with Barry Manilow selections, plus themes from the movies *Superman* and *New York*,

New York. The hearty applause after each number and a long, standing ovation prompted Ron to remark about the friendliness of the audience after his *Student Prince* encore.

After his welcome by M.C. Tim Holloran at Babson College, Ron started off with a quick-tempoed "Whispering" opener. His easy console personality had an instant appeal with the large assembly of listeners. All ages and musical tastes once again had identity in his programming — from opera to operetta, from the big band era of the enduring Guy Lombardo and Wayne King to the current "Gonna" Fly Now."

Ron Rhode pleasantly surprised all with his organ accompaniment to a silent comedy, *Splash Yourself*, revealing another facet of his talents. His finale was dedicated to his mother, played in the Don Baker, N.Y. Paramount-style, a fine "When Yuba Plays the Tuba," resulting in a cheering, standing, extended applause. Our reward: "The Dark Town Strutter's Ball," with similar audience reaction.

Ron may be relatively young in years, but he has a traditional approach in his playing, with his own



Ron Rhode played two different programs at two different organs for Eastern Mass. in November.

unique style and interpretation. It is easy to hear and to see why he has been so successful as featured organist at Organ Stop, Mesa, Arizona, since its June, 1975, opening, at the ATOS National Convention and in his concert tours.

Garrett and Sarah Shanklin again graciously hosted the Christmas meeting held on December 16th at their Groton residence.

Tom Gnaster was introduced from the console and his opener was a little-known, yet tuneful "On the S.S. Bernard Cohn." This 2/12 Wurlitzer with a Mason & Hamlin grand piano (with Ampico player roll attachment), playable from the console, were perfectly suited to Tom. Much of his very listenable program was planned with the winter and Christmas season in mind, resulting in a joyful mood. Snow, in the nearby woods, was visible outside the picture windows, making "Winter Wonderland" most appropriate. Sounds reminiscent of Jesse Crawford's old Victor 78 rpm discs were heard as his "Hi Hat" number evolved. Broadway musicals and operettas are favorite source material for Tom with "Toyland" and Richard Rodgers' "Oklahoma" being chosen with colorful renditions.

Tom Gnaster has great musicianship, style and imagination, coupled with an unassuming manner.

Garrett then gave a few facts about the organ and grand piano, to which he and his son have devoted many hours. A brief demonstration of the Ampico player unit followed, particularly to show the unique expressiveness.

A pipe organ needs money and T.L.C. and the latter is furnished by the skilled technician and organist, Allen Miller, who was then introduced. This refined Wurlitzer so well-regulated and in such good voice, had a quick workout with Allen playing several numbers, all to our delight.

A parade of members then kept the pipes "singing" nonstop, a musical background to the attractive feast of homemade goodies.

The wonderful hospitality of the Shanklins, their Mighty Wurlitzer along with talented artists, good food and good fellowship created a holiday spirit in a most pleasant dosage!

STANLEY C. GARNISS



A little dinner music — with Ginny Vanore at the console.



Outgoing Chairman Walter Froelich (R) receives plaque from incoming Chairman Peter Panos.



Major Jack Moelmann at the 3/11 Wurlitzer.



Joyce Kunemund listens to Don Plenkers at the Casa Italiana Wurlitzer.

GARDEN STATE

The months of September, October and November were very active months for G.S.T.O.S.

It started with the installation dinner for our new chapter officers at the Casa Italiana. The theme of the dinner was the Roaring Twenties, with prizes given for the most appropriate costumes of the era. Our secretary, Mrs. Marjory Vitakis, showed up in a great flapper costume accompanied by her husband, Oliver, resplendent in top hat and tails, the logo for Scott Towels, a thirsty fiber. This writer was dressed in black suit, grey vest, spats and derby with a hip flask, machine gun and a bottle of Genuine Bathtub Gin. Dinner music and music for dancing was provided by Ginny Vanore, Maj. Jack Moelmann, Mike Cippoletti and Cliff Meyers at the 3/11 Wurlitzer. Several members and guests tried the Wurlitzer, and had a good time doing so. The installation banquet had been scheduled for January, but in



"Best Costume" winners (front row, L to R) are: Don Plenkers, first prize; Joe Vanore, second prize; and Pat Terhune, third prize.

past years the weather had been so bad that members stayed away, because of all the snow. On September 21st, instead of snow, we got rain, rain, and then a downpour. G.S.-T.O.S. is toying with the idea of hiring out as rainmakers — if you have a drought, throw a party for us and you'll get your rain when we arrive.

The 30th of September was the annual get-together of New York, Delaware, and Garden State chapters at Surf City, on Long Beach Island, New Jersey. Pete Polito rounded up a busload, and with those who came by car, the place was pretty well filled. It rained!

On October 14th, some G.S.T.O.S. members headed up to Connecticut Valley's Thomaston Opera House, and thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality extended to us by Connecticut Valley Chapter. After the open console session we went to Stillman Rice's home and had a grand time at his Allen organ. It isn't pipes, but it sounded good. Thanks again to Mr. and Mrs. Rice for their warm and generous hospitality.

On the 21st of October, U.S. Air Force Maj. Jack Moelmann presented a silent comedy with live organ background music, sing-along and mini-concert at the Olde Rahway Theatre. For once we had a good weather day, and an excellent turnout enjoyed the show immensely.

November 4th, Rex Koury provided an excellent show at the Trenton War Memorial Auditorium. Congratulations to Rex on a beautiful program, as usual.

On November 10th, Pete Polito once again commandeered a busload to the United Palace in New York City to hear Jerry Nagano in concert. An excellent performance on an excellent organ. All those in attendance enjoyed the music owe a big thanks to Mel Robinson of the New York Chapter who keeps the organ in top condition, and of course to Jerry Nagano for a fine performance.

The 11th of November was open console at the Casa Italiana in the afternoon, with an Italian movie shown afterwards.

The 18th of November was open console at the Rahway. This corre-

spondent brought two friends who are customer engineers for UNIVAC in Mexico, Jim Alonso and George Rosellon, to the Rahway so they could take a chamber crawl and find out what pipe organs are all about. From what they tell me, there are no theatre pipe organs in Mexico. There are electronic organs around, but nothing like the biggest little Wurlitzer pipe organ. On the 30th, they were taken to the Trenton Auditorium and took a tour through the chambers. They were impressed to say the least.

Our friends have some wonderful

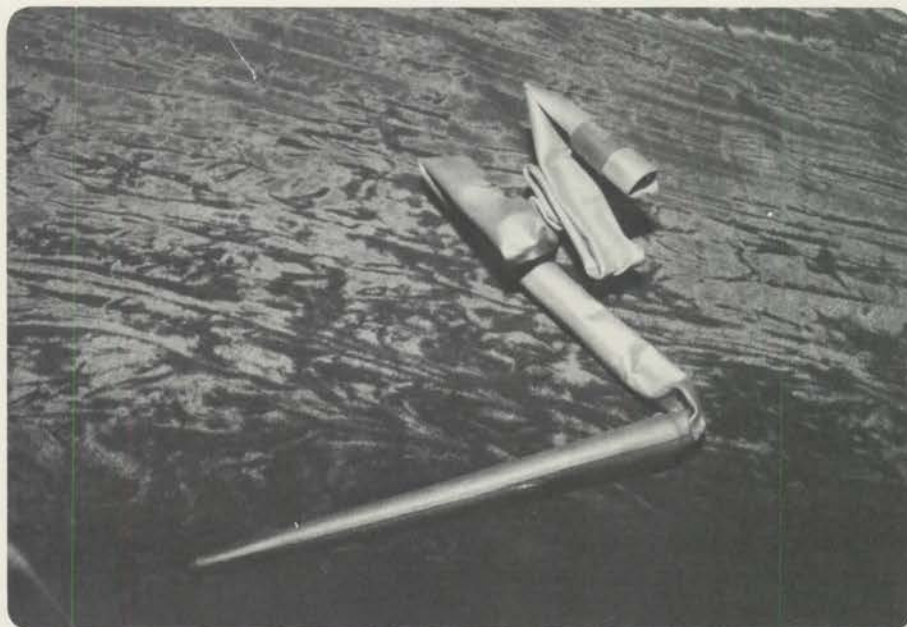
memories and pictures to take home with them to Mexico.

DONALD M. PLENKERS

GULF COAST

When we purchased the ranks to enlarge our Robert Morton, some had been severely damaged and all but ruined. (See accompanying photos.) One pipe from the clarinet rank looked like a fugitive from "Tony's Spaghetti House." These ranks have all been redone and are better than new.

We have had many workshop sessions. The last one in the closed



Single pipe, badly damaged.



Single pipe repaired.

Saenger Theatre here in Pensacola, Fla. The empty theatre is not strange to us; we have worked there alone many times. The rest of the time we work at the home of member B.D. Rhea, M.D., who graciously allows us the use of his home and workshop for many of our chapter activities. The fact is, he does more than the lion's share of the work.

Chapter member Miles Frisinger is in the process of reworking our percussions. He started with the Chrysoglott and the others will follow. Miles has not one, but *two* Robert Mortons in his home in Dothan, Ala. Eat your heart out, you people

in ATOS-land.

Our future organ will be equipped with the latest electronic relay system; thus eliminating any re-leathering of the old type.

Dr. Rhea has come up with a new soldering technique, unavailable until now, that makes the additional pipes look like new. The Strings, Vox and Quintadena are ready and are anxiously looking forward to hearing them play! The pipes will be tonally finished to fit in with the superb acoustics of the Saenger Theatre. Many thanks to Jim Scoggins and Jim Peterson for their help, assistance and encouragement.

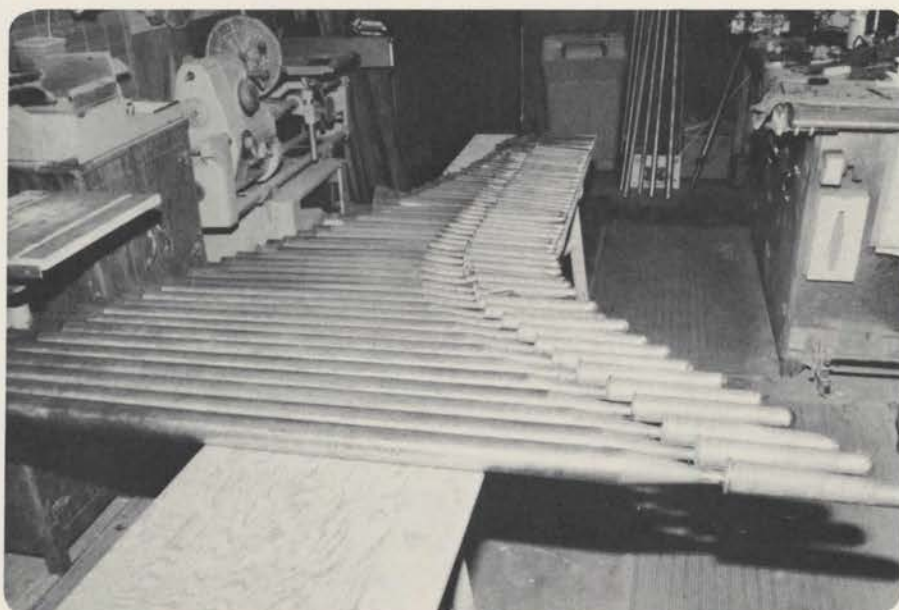
Officers for the coming year are as follows: Tom Helms, chairman; B. D. Rhea, M.D., vice chairman and treasurer; Dorothy Standley, secretary; with Walter Smith and Bob Sidebottom as members of the board of directors. A good group!

We are very fortunate in our chapter to have the mechanical expertise that we do. Curt Goldhill is an engineer by trade, but is outstanding as a consultant on organ needs. He is installing a Robert Morton in his home that was originally in a theatre in Selma, Ala. Curt, with help of the other mechanical wizards, always come up, some way, with the solution we need when we are stumped.

DOROTHY STANDLEY



Rank of damaged pipes.



Rank of pipes restored.

JOLIET AREA

The Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts held their annual Christmas party on Friday the 14th of December in the Chandelier Room of the Rialto Square Complex.

After a pleasant social hour of meeting old and new acquaintances, a delightful dinner was enjoyed by everyone. Twenty-six members and guests were present. Then it was up to the auditorium for a brief business meeting followed by the console of the 4/21 Golden-Voiced Grande Barton rising on the lift to offer open keyboard time to all.

Although not as large in membership as some chapters, JATOE is indeed fortunate in having this pipe organ in its original placement, the ornate and impressive Rialto, known as the Jewel of Joliet. Over fifty years ago the instrument and the theatre were designed to complement each other in a perfectly harmonious center of entertainment.

WILLARD E. BRIER

LOS ANGELES

Good music and real nostalgia blended beautifully when veteran theatre organist Chauncey Haines played his "delayed" program for the chapter.

As in his earlier scheduling when Chauncey had broken his ankle just prior to the concert and Bill Wright ably substituted, this program, too, had its mishap! Chauncey had planned to play the accompaniment for the great German silent movie *Metropolis* — but the film didn't



Fred Page poses with Lou Behm after Lou's Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak Barton in December.



Santa Claus (Fred Page) joins tenor Don McCall, harpist Nadia Marks and Lyn Larsen (at the piano) at Motor City's Christmas Show at the Redford Theatre.

arrive in time for the performance! Like the seasoned pro he is, Chauncey went on with the show and played a complete program of typical music played in the theatres during the "golden age" of theatre organs.

Between his numbers, Chauncey reminisced and told numerous anecdotes about all the great musicians he has worked with over the years. A rare evening with one of the theatre organ greats!

West Culver Baptist Church, with its beautiful 3/12 theatre Wurlitzer, was the scene of the annual LATOS election of officers and Christmas party. Marguerite Hendricksen and Bernice Neal headed the committee who set-up the festive potluck dinner following the meeting. Over 12 hard-working volunteers did all the work setting up the tables, serving the food, and then cleaning up the kitchen afterwards. The hostesses were beautifully gowned in either all red or all green with Jo Williams' fancy handmade aprons and caps com-

pleting the Christmas picture. Our thanks to all who helped make this the most memorable Christmas party ever!

Elected unanimously at the annual meeting were Ralph Beaudry, chairman; Gene Davis, vice chairman; Avis Schmill, secretary; Steve Ross, treasurer; Neal Kissel, program director; Bill Exner, technical director; and Mike Ohman, liaison director.

One bit of unfinished ATOS business was completed during the intermission of a fall Bill Thomson concert at the "Tower of Beauty" in Sylmar, Calif. During the '79 ATOS Convention, J. B. Nethercutt was selected as the year's Honorary Member. Mr. Nethercutt couldn't accept the award in person because he was golfing on his favorite course — which is in Scotland. The award was presented three months later by Chapter Chairman Mike Ohman, and is covered elsewhere in this issue.

RALPH BEAUDRY & STU GREEN

MOTOR CITY

The annual membership meeting was held November 4th at the Redford Theatre and included a potluck supper in the lobby of the theatre. Before-dinner entertainment was provided by Bob Nagy and Ron Morocco at the 3/10 Barton. Lou Behm played dinner-music at the grand piano. Open console followed the short business meeting, during which the incumbents were reelected to the board.

Dennis James appeared at the Redford Theatre on November 10th with a "Laurel and Hardy Festival." Featured silent films were *The Second Hundred Years*, *Battle of the*

Century, *Habeas Corpus* and *Big Business*. Costumed-members added to the evening's festivities, especially Bob Nagy and Bob Duerr, dressed as Laurel and Hardy, who waited in line to buy tickets.

Our Christmas bazaar in November netted the chapter over \$1,500 from the three-day affair. Three happy winners of the bazaar raffle went home with a complete set of china, a hand-painted tea set and a holiday food basket.

Lyn Larsen, for the second year, headed the list of talent for our Christmas Show at the Redford on December 8th. He was ably assisted in the evening's entertainment by harpist Nadia Marks and tenor Don McCall. Special stage lighting effects and decorations enhanced the well-received program.

Our Christmas party was held at the Redford on December 16th. Member Tony O'Brien presented a program at the Barton, followed by refreshments and open console.

Our fall workshop series offered instructional pipe organ programs at the Redford by members John Lauter, Lionel LaMay, Fr. Jim Miller, Tony O'Brien and Ed Walsh.

The Second Sunday program in November at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor featured Herb Head at the 3/13 Barton. Henry Aldridge and Bud Bates, as well as A.G.O. members, performed in December, a joint meeting of the two groups.

Fourth Sunday artists at the Royal Oak Theatre 3/16 Barton were Don Jenks in November and Lou Behm in December.

DON LOCKWOOD



Chauncey Haines at the San Gabriel Wurlitzer. No movie, so he "winged" a concert. (Stufoto)



Gene Powell at his 4-manual console at Organ World during the Organ Marathon. (R.A. Nichols Photo)



Dr. Flynt at the Organ Marathon, ready to accompany the silent movies, starting at the "88." (R.A. Nichols Photo)

NORTH TEXAS

Work has been progressing — slowly but surely — on the chapter's refurbishing project, that of getting ex-Loew's Jersey Wonder Morton into "brand new" condition. We still have two work sites active, one at Gene Powell's Organ World shop in Garland, and one at Jim Peterson's shop in south Fort Worth. The regulars have been showing up for the Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday sessions as much as possible, and about 10% of the 4000 to 6000 person-hours has been put in. As is common with such projects, there is a reliable nucleus of workers who show up at the work sites, but it's really a small portion of the actual chapter membership. Other members show up at varying intervals.

The tax deduction evaluation of the organ to the donors, \$126,000, gives a very good picture of the size of the project.

Working on the Wonder Morton is not the only chapter activity. On October 21st, the group met at the Landmark Pizza in Dallas, to hear our first vice chairman, Dale Flanery.

The business session was opened by Chairman Richard Nichols with a

moment of silent prayer in memory of Josef Adelmeir, a good, loyal member of the chapter, who died in September. Josef was a friend to all, and will be truly missed. Regular business included a summary of the progress on the Wonder Morton and a brief review of "coming events." In accordance with club procedure, Chairman Nichols then called for nominations from the floor for members of the nominating committee. Elected to the committee were Dr. Robert Lloyd, Fred Garrett, Grace Johnson and Joe Koski.

After the business session adjourned, Dale Flanery played a fine concert, thrilling the crowd with his fine renditions. Outstanding to this writer was Dale's patriotic medley, and his entire program was a great delight to the audience. An open console session rounded out the afternoon's activities.

The annual Organ Marathon of the chapter, held at Organ World in Garland, Texas, was a big success. Of course Organ World was only a part of the activity, as organs at other locations were also called upon to supplement the week-long program.

Activity started well before the scheduled November 19th opening day. Gene Powell and a good, hard-working crew toiled day and night to

get the composite theatre organ at Organ World in top shape, including several additions to the instrument. The crew worked on into the "wee small hours" before the opening concert to be sure that everything was in readiness.

Denece Powell was program chairperson for the affair, and put together an excellent week-long program of pipe organ music, with a lot of good talent. The third annual Organ Marathon was one of the finest such programs ever heard in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex area. It started off Monday evening with the presentation of Ed Galley, an international artist, in his first appearance before a Texas audience. Ed played a great program of music fully appropriate for the theatre organ, and enthusiastically-received by the audience. Tuesday night Ed Galley further demonstrated his musical ability and expertise by playing a classical program at the Orchard Hills Baptist Church organ. It was a complete departure from his program of the evening before, showing Ed's mastery of the classical organ as well as the theatre organ. His audience enjoyed the classical presentation just as much as the less formal program of the previous evening.

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Dr. Lloyd, Chairman Dick Nichols and Dr. McGillivray after presentation of the "plaques" at the Christmas session. (R.A. Nichols Photo)



Dr. Bob McGillivray plays for the Christmas meeting at his Rodgers 652.

Thursday evening the marathon took on its full continuous function, continuing through Friday evening and all day Saturday. Many of the "regulars" attended every program, and visitors came from surrounding states as well as distant parts of Texas. The many hours that fellows like Dick Cooper and Howard Pettigrew put in completing the installation of the theatre organ at Organ World really paid off when Gene Powell fired it up and thrilled the audience with some fine playing of real theatre organ music. The silent movie sessions, with Dr. Flynt accompanying at the organ were well-received.

The goodies were not limited to organ music. "Dishing up" good music and good food were members Grace Lerner, Jan Nichols, Grace Johnson, Sylvia Swift, Jeanette Frazer, Patty Shuford and Lorena McKee. Ted Thompson was "chief hat passer" and the donations received will help greatly toward obtaining the materials needed to complete the Wonder Morton refurbishing project.

Dr. Lloyd and Dr. McGillivray, were the hosts for our chapter Christmas session at their home, complete with a 3-manual, Rodgers installed in their music room. Dale Flannery, Gene Powell and several other chapter organists and visitors put the Rodgers through its paces. Also celebrated at the same time were the birthdays of both Dr. Lloyd and Dr. McGillivray, who were presented with suitably-engraved wooden organ pipes as "plaques," honoring them for their service to the chapter. Unfortunately for the chapter, it was probably the last chance to hear this Rodgers 652 in this location. Dr. McGillivray has already moved to New Orleans, where he is now head of the Business Administration and Finance Department at Loyola University. Dr. Lloyd is moving his practice to New Orleans.

After a brief business meeting during which marathon results and work progress on the Wonder Morton were discussed, Dr. McGillivray opened the music session with some fine music demonstrating some

of the capabilities of that Rodgers 652. Gene Powell followed him at the console, followed by a perfect afternoon of open console.

The "location committee" is still reviewing possible installation sites, with Texas Hall at U of Texas at Arlington still leading the field, for the "Wonder" Morton installation.

Our 1980 activities include further work on the Wonder Morton, and plenty of concerts, meetings and other sessions to further the cause of theatre organry. Best wishes to all for a fine, prosperous and active theatre organ year, from the North Texas Chapter.

JOE KOSKI

NOR-CAL

Activities for the chapter have been quite varied the last half of 1979. The Johnson Winery in Healdsburg, equipped with a Marr & Colton, was the scene of an open console and picnic lunch for the June meeting.

Ken and Doris Ensele have an outdoor Wurlitzer, "Big Alice," set



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among the redwoods on their property outside Napa. The barbecue pits were fired up for us for our August meeting so our picnic was great. The Ford Retractable Club (1956-1959 convertible steel-roof vintage cars) shared the festivities with us. This meeting was open console style and the bench was occupied by many members including the great theatre organist Larry Vannucci. Dave Moreno did a fine job in tuning "Big Alice" for us and also played several times to demonstrate his wide talents. This meeting was probably our last group opportunity to hear this instrument as the Ensele's are planning a new homesite in Oregon. We will miss this most unusual organ installation and the hospitality of Ken and Doris. California's loss will be Oregon's gain.

The November meeting was held at the Redwood City Pizza & Pipes with Dave Hooper at the four-decker Wurlitzer. Dave is a staff organist at both the Pizza & Pipes chain and the Thundermug. This young man has had much formal training and experience to make his natural talent shine. His program was well-planned to give us all forms of music. The execution was most professional with the result we all enjoyed a most pleasant afternoon. This was Dave's first appearance for us, and we look forward to a return engagement.

Another visit was arranged at the Bella Roma II, in Concord, for our December meeting. The Sunday morning date started off with a delicious champagne brunch served by the Bella Roma II staff. For dessert we were dazzled by the talents of Dave Reese at the Wurlitzer console. Again Dave treated us to show tunes, standards and current melodies that fill his vast repertoire. His musical abilities seem to be endless. During the December meeting, the



Dave Hooper at the Redwood City Pizza & Pipes console. (Jim Mc Guire Photo)

annual election of the Board of Directors was conducted. About half the 1979 board members were re-elected and augmented with five new members to implement our 1980 objectives.

Isaleen Nadalet, our seven-year faithful secretary, took a leave from office to be sure her newly-retired husband can travel without being delayed due to ATOS business. The chapter will miss Isaleen's guidance she so generously provided over the years. Officers for 1980 are: Jim



Chairman Jim Dunbar (L) and Dave Reese at the Bella Roma II in Concord. (Jim Mc Guire Photo)

Dunbar, chairman; Dan Lovett, vice chairman; Etta Nevins, treasurer; and Art Woodworth, secretary.

For those who are interested, the four Wurlitzer-equipped Cap'n's Galley Pizza & Pipes restaurants have been sold by Bill Breuer to Bob Patterson. Mr. Patterson has indicated previous policies will continue with some upgrading of facilities and organ related activities at certain locations. It is gratifying that good organ installations will be retained so our members and all the people of the San Francisco Bay area can continue to enjoy the King of the Instruments.

JIM DUNBAR

OHIO VALLEY

News from the Ohio Valley Chapter doesn't appear often in this magazine but that doesn't indicate inactivity. Everyone is so involved in our program that we seem to lack the time to let you know all that is happening.

Our major program is the operation of the Emery Theatre, currently seating 1364, as a classic movie theatre every weekend. We have been running since July, 1978, with two shows on Friday and Saturday evenings and four shows on Sundays. We found that double features draw the best attendance. We even have extra midnight shows on Friday and Saturdays. Even though the majority of these films are sound movies we feature the organ before, after and between each feature which adds up to a lot of organ music each day.

We have a staff of organists from the chapter who perform regularly. Since last spring we have added Jack Doll and Gene Ostenkamp to our list of performers. This public experience has developed each of them to

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a high degree. They have even developed fans among our regular customers.

This program takes a minimum of 30 volunteers per week to operate the theatre under the direction of our house manager, Fred Baum. Exposure of the organ and old movies has brought us many new members and supporters.

We charge \$2.50 admission and the proceeds are used for the refurbishing of the Emery and the organ which we brought here from the now-razed R.K.O. Albee Theatre here in Cincinnati. The costs of operating a large theatre like ours are high and the refurbishing costs are even higher. Our members can paint and so far we've redecorated the marquee, lobby and foyer. We are gradually bringing the house and stage lighting into prime condition, thanks to the efforts of Lyman Breneman and his crew. They have also renewed some of the rigging backstage.

We have used the improved stage facilities recently to put on an hour-and-a-quarter of magic by our fellow member, Bill Brewé, a professional magician who repeated many of the big illusions of Houdini, Thurston, Blackstone, etc. Herb Wottle backed up the show by playing the appropriate mysterious oriental music at the Wurlitzer. This live stage show, with pretty girls, coupled with a horror movie, made a good Halloween weekend. It brought back memories of the days when our organ played for vaudeville and movies in its original home.

In October we featured Ann Leaf in a concert, part of which included a Laurel and Hardy film. Fifty-five members of the Central Indiana Chapter came to hear this concert and stayed over to hear and see Tote Pratt demonstrate our instrument

on Sunday morning and to participate in an open console session.

In November we had The Kings of Comedy (formerly The Silent Clowns) with Lee Erwin at the console. These silent films ran eleven consecutive days with a different program each day without repeats of a single comedy. Featured were Harold Lloyd, Buster Keaton, Harry Langdon, Marie Dressler, the Keystone Cops and others of that era. The staff organists of the chapter provided Lee with relief at intermissions on the four days when we had three shows per day. This many shows in a compact time gave everyone in the chapter an opportunity to help in promotion and in staffing the theatre.

To date we've had concerts by Gaylord Carter, Dennis James, Lee Erwin and Ann Leaf. On April 12, 1980 we are having Dick Hyman, jazz pianist, perform at the piano and the organ. Dick Hyman has been studying theatre organ with Lee Erwin and we are looking forward to hearing him in a style reminiscent of Fats Waller.

We've had other organists drop in to play our organ when they are in town. These include Hector Olivera, Jonas Nordwall and Searle Wright. They have praised the quality of the organ restoration, it's rapid response and the superb acoustics of the house.

Two albums have been recorded on our Wurlitzer, one by Lee Erwin entitled *Moon River Revisited* and the latest by Marilyn (Bubbles) Libben, one of our staff organists called *Here's Bubbles*. The Lee Erwin album is \$7.95 plus \$1.00 handling (add 36 cents for state tax if purchased in Ohio). The Bubbles Libben album is \$8.50, tax and handling included. Mail orders should be sent to Ohio Valley Chapter ATOS,

1112 Walnut St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45210.

The organ crew, under Tote Pratt, needs to keep active every Saturday to keep the organ in top shape. With such intensive use of the organ we can't afford any down time. We use our ingenuity to keep it playing while we add and improve the organ. This pressure has transformed our crew into a group of organ experts. Rich Kersting keeps up the tonal quality of the instrument with weekly tune-ups.

Our Wurlitzer was originally a Style 260 with 3 manuals and 19 ranks. It has been completely rebuilt and increased to 23 ranks. The work necessary for the addition of three more ranks (to a total of 26) and a piano is underway. These increases beyond the original 19 ranks require many changes in the console, including an added setter board.

I'm happy to report that Shady Nook, the theatre restaurant operated by the late Stan and Ginny Todd, continues to operate. One of the new owners is our fellow member, Dennis Werkmeister. He is putting the organ back into prime condition with the help of Herb Merritt, another Ohio Valley member. Now when you visit Cincinnati there are two fine organs to enjoy. Shady Nook is at 879 Millville-Oxford Hwy. in Hamilton and the Emery is at 1112 Walnut Street in downtown Cincinnati.

BILL AHLERT

OKLAHOMA CITY

Closing-out the decade, we had an encore of the fabulous gourmet-musical extravaganza which is an annual event with members Bill Blevin and Ed Thrower, who put their talents together, along with Bill's Aunt Dorothy, as hosts at their musical studio-home.



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Gerry Gregorius at the Sherwood Oriental Marr & Colton during the Christmas program. (Claude V. Neuffer Photo)



Milt Kieffer (L), Joe Gray and Milt's 2/7 Wurlitzer console. (Claude V. Neuffer Photo)

With Dorothy Hamilton at the Yamaha grand, Ed Thrower at the Allen theatre organ, Betty Yetter at the Rodgers theatre organ, and contemporary jam sessions with Jack Macdonald, Curt Chambers, Jim Harris and other members, it was a glorious way to start the Christmas season off with a bang.

New officers for 1980 are: Mickey Reynolds, one of OKC's better-known radio, theatre, TV and modern band directors, chairman; Curt Chambers, a teacher, performer and electronic salesman vice chairman; and Wendell Boaz, a long-time businessman, and recording firm executive, reelected treasurer. Other offices will be filled by appointment as we have some very talented members in advertising, design and programming.

Excellent plans and concerts are in the offing for 1980. At present eight members have indicated intentions of going to London for the 1980 convention.

PAUL N. HAGGARD

OREGON

Back in July, 1978, we were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Milt Kieffer for a

final hearing of the 2/7 Wurlitzer in their home. This instrument was scheduled to be moved to Uncle Milt's pizza restaurant in Vancouver, Washington, just over the Columbia River from Portland. Now, we are happy to report that this organ is still in the Kieffer home, Milt having installed a separate 3/18 Wurlitzer in his new restaurant. Accordingly, we met again at the Kieffer home near Vancouver to hear one of our own members, Joe Gray.

This talented young man has an extensive background in classical organ, which is apparent in the precise technique used in his fine theatre organ styling. Joe is currently representing Rodgers for the Stone Piano and Organ Co. in Salem, and performs frequently throughout the state.

Joe's concert was followed by open console and fine refreshments. On the way back to Portland many of us stopped by to hear Milt's other organ at his pizza restaurant, making this a complete and most enjoyable afternoon.

We very much appreciate Mr. and Mrs. Kieffer's hospitality, and also wish to thank Dennis Hedberg of

the Portland Organ Grinder for his time spent servicing the organ for this meeting.

Our annual Christmas potluck dinner was held at the Odd Fellows Hall in Sherwood, near Portland. A fine turnout enjoyed delicious food, and the opportunity to visit with friends we seldom get to see. We wish to thank Marie Briody, and her staff, for the fine meal and decorations. Following dinner we walked around the corner to the Sherwood Oriental Theatre to hear Gerry Gregorius in concert at Bill Blunk's 5/24 Marr & Colton.

Gerry is organist at the Congregation Neveh Shalom and organist-choirmaster Grace Memorial Episcopal Church. He plays frequent theatre organ concerts as well as accompanying silent pictures. He also maintains a teaching studio, producing many fine students. His program made full and artistic use of all five manuals, exploiting the vast resources of this giant instrument.

We are indebted to Bob Rothchild and Gene Stoller for the use of this beautiful little theatre and to Bill Blunk for the organ.

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University of Maryland 3/11 Kimball.



Doug Bailey at his Wurlitzer-Moller hybrid.

(Harold R. Richman Photo)

POTOMAC VALLEY

In September Eddie Weaver was our guest artist at the 2-manual Wurlitzer at the Weinberg Center in Frederick, Maryland. There was a good-sized crowd present and they were kept well-entertained for the afternoon. Eddie's sing-alongs are fun. This was a paid concert to help our chapter with its installation of



Eddie Weaver at the Weinberg Center Wurlitzer.

a 3/11 plus Kimball at the University of Maryland Adult Education Center, College Park, Maryland.

This project has been under way for several years and will come to fruition in 1980. The large chambers are live and much of the organ is already in place. The swell shades and motors were recently completed. The regulators and tremulants are located in their own special closed off areas, so that they can make all the noise they want, without interfering with the organ sound. The console has been completely restored by the Baltimore contingent of our chapter, and they have done a superb job. The console is white and is mounted on a foldable, wheeled platform covered in green carpeting.

In early November our meeting was for members only at Doug Bailey's advertising office. The instrument is a hybrid which Doug calls a Wurlitzer-Moller. Doug plays both piano and organ by ear. He played a two-segment program which we all enjoyed. After his program there was open console. The organ is quite compact, and has only one chamber, which one must walk through to get to the

console. The organ is in an office in a large shopping center in Rockville, Maryland.

Our Christmas party was held at the University of Maryland, Adult Education Center, where the restored Kimball console was displayed. Many people took advantage of the opportunity to inspect the chambers and see the progress that has been made toward getting this instrument playing again. Today, this organ is known as the Warner Kimball, having come from a downtown Washington, D.C. theatre by that name. In the heyday of theatre organ, this theatre was one of three stage show movie palaces, the Palace, the Capitol and the Earle. Our organ is from the Earle Theatre, and to me, this organ will always be the "Earle." The Capitol organ has been enlarged and restored and is owned by our chapter member Dick Kline, in his home at Thurmont, Maryland. (The Palace organ went down with the building.)

Before a nice Christmas dinner, the audience was treated to a Buster Keaton silent film, accompanied by old pro Earl Sharitz at the Ham-



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Sherrie Maels at the Tacoma Pizza and Pipes Wurlitzer.



Margaret and Dick Daubert receive plaque from Chairman Ken Gallwey.

mond B2, given for our use by the University. A short business meeting was held to reelect, without opposition, the existing officers of the chapter for another year.

DICK HAIGHT

PUGET SOUND

Chapter members enjoyed a November Sunday meeting at the Tacoma Pizza and Pipes with guest artist Sherrie Maels, who played to a full house of organ enthusiasts and guests. An attractive young lady, she pleased us all with a varied program.

Using slides of nearby Mt. Rainier as a background, "Climb Every Mountain" and "Eidelweiss" were thrilling. For the younger set, she played "It's a Small, Small World," again with appropriate slides. Sherrie's finale made us realize that the time had gone by very quickly. She is heard at the restaurant Wednesday through Saturday.

Sherrie is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University, and is teaching basic skills at an elementary school in Tacoma. For three years she played an electronic organ for games in

the Tacoma Cheney Stadium. She has studied with Andy Crow, as well as Jonas Nordwall.

The Pizza and Pipes organ, is a 3/17 Wurlitzer, Opus 2128, and came from the Fort Wayne Paramount Theatre. The restaurant was custom-designed for the instrument. We invite you to stop by and enjoy this beautiful organ when in Tacoma. Andy Crow is at the console on Monday and Tuesday evenings and Jane Mc Kee Johnson holds forth on Sundays.

Following the concert a plaque was presented to owners Margaret and Dick Daubert in appreciation for their continued support of the Puget Sound Chapter. The plaque, presented by Chairman Ken Gallwey, was inscribed on the back: "This wood is sugar pine from the shipping base platform of Wurlitzer Opus 362 pipe organ, Style 210, delivered to the Seattle Blue Mouse Theatre, October, 1920." The plaque was made and signed by Jack Becvar, one of our most loyal and hardest-working members. Open console followed the meeting.

Open console also started off our

Christmas party at the Haller Lake Community Club, home of our chapter organ. Two lavish punch bowls were followed by a bountiful potluck supper. Canadian members Bert and Doris Miller brought a huge kettle of homemade clam chowder, and a large salmon for our raffle. Doris also favored us with some silent film themes, having been one of the top organists in Vancouver during the theatre organ era.

Our new officers for 1980 are: Thelma Barclay, chairman; Mel Retalaff, vice chairman; Genny Whitting, secretary; and Bill Browning, treasurer. New board members Russ Evans and Merv Vaught join current board members Dick Dickerson and Austin Nelson. Dick Schrum, a member of the National Board, will be our 1981 National Convention Chairman.

Duets enlivened the Christmas mood, with Bernice Campbell, at the piano and Merv Vaught, at the chapter organ. Dick Dickerson and Dick Schrum, then took turns at the 3/17 Wurlitzer, and, with a drummer, they provided the very danceable music. We must give credit, too,

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Dick Schrum (L) and Dick Dickerson at the Puget Sound Christmas party.

to Jack Becvar, Ken Gallwey, Kip Lawton and Bob Otie, for the fine condition of the organ.

THELMA R. SMITH

RED RIVER

Busily making plans for our next show at the Fargo Theatre April 17th and working on additions to the Wurlitzer there, have kept us going through the holidays. In January, a second Chrysoglott will be added, modified to play as a Vibraphone. A player piano is being restored, to be located in the orchestra pit, and may be finished in time to be used in the spring program. Also, a new hydraulic lift has been ordered.

Beginning December 12th, the Downtown Business Association, the Fargo Theatre, and the Red River Chapter sponsored free noon hour Christmas concerts for shoppers, downtown employees and the general public. They were encouraged to bring their lunches into the theatre, and to relax and enjoy their favorite Christmas music provided by Pat Kelly, Lloyd Collins and Lance Johnson at the Wurlitzer. Two TV stations sent crews down to video

tape. There were also newspaper reviews, including the following comments by Kay Cann in her arts column in the *Midweek Eagle*, "I wish everyone in Fargo would appreciate what a great asset we have in the Fargo Theatre and its marvelous organ, and in the organists who have restored the organ and play it frequently for the pleasure of the public. Their FREE noon hour concerts during the past two weeks have been one of the joys of the Christmas Season." This is the kind of attention we like getting in print. All chapters should have such praise! We'd like to present these free concerts next Christmas and for many years following.

SONIA CARLSON

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Officers for 1980 were elected at the November 20th meeting which was held in the East Colfax rooms where the parts for our Wurlitzer organ are stored. Work is progressing on the restoration of the first organ that RMATOS has owned and a detailed report on this will be forthcoming.

Forty-five members and guests braved the snow and ice for the December 2nd concert hosted by Bill and Priscilla Arthur at their home in southeast Denver; it was co-hosted by Margaret Ann Foy. The Arthurs have a 2/5 Marr & Colton and the console occupies an elevated setting in the south sun room. Our talented member, Ed Benoit, presented a most enjoyable concert with a finale of Christmas songs. We especially appreciate Ed driving down from Central City to share his talent and ability with us. We hope to have the pleasure of hearing him more often.

The Aladdin Theatre with its 3/17 Wicks has been purchased by a group of insurance investors to be saved as historical property. They plan to continue on their present 1981 contract with the Mann Theatres, and beyond that date if possible. They are aware of the work that ATOS has done on the Wicks and they would like the group to continue playing the organ for events at the theatre.

Colorado State University at Fort Collins is interested in acquiring a theatre organ for the Student Center Theatre. The students have agreed to give \$10,000 if matching funds can be obtained from the Alumni Association.

MARGARET ANN FOY

ST. LOUIS

Jack Jenkins hosted the September meeting at the Second Baptist Church of Granite City, Illinois, where he is minister of music. He entertained the group with a lively program of light romantic music plus one religious number and refreshments were served by the church choir. Open console at the 2/4 Wicks followed, as did a tour of the Jenkins' restored home nearby. Guests showed much interest in the restoration work and antiques in the house and enjoyed more open console at Jack's 3-manual Rodgers theatre organ.

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ATOS members may remember Jack's innovative playing at the San Diego pizzeria, where he was featured after his graduation from Southern Illinois University.

The November meeting was held at the Kingsland Theatre, where work is progressing on the 2/9 Wurlitzer installation. Although very little could be heard live from the organ, everyone was encouraged when they heard the beautiful tones from an old tape made by Art Edinger on this organ. Art was the last person to play this organ when it was in the now-extinct Majestic Theatre. He was also an assistant to the famous Stan Kann at the St. Louis Fox Theatre back in the good old days.

Gail and Marlin Mackley hosted our annual election meeting and the following people took office: Marlin Mackley, chairman; Frank Suess, vice chairman; Betty Tyler, secretary; Chuck Wiltsch, treasurer, Bill Boal and Gorman Selbert are members of the board along with two retained members, Paul Coates and Jim Grebe.

The musical portion of the meeting was the playback of a video tape of Gerry Marian at the console of the Chandler 3/13 Wurlitzer for a half-hour show which had been televised earlier.

Our Christmas party was again hosted by Billie and Paul Coates in their home. Paul provided several numbers on some of his newly-acquired musical oddities and Jack Jenkins played a wide variety of classical and popular music for everyone's pleasure. Open console at Paul's 4/13 hybrid was greatly-enjoyed by all, especially since Paul had his newest toy connected to the organ. It is a three-foot-high carved wooden statue of Arthur Fiedler, whose raised arm holds a baton and moves to the beat of the pedals. An-



Paul Coates (L) reads from the Christmas program as Chuck Wiltsch looks on.

other treat was Mario Salvatore, organist at the 4/99 Kilgen at the St. Louis Catholic Cathedral, who brilliantly played a Christmas carol and a toccata.

BILL ANTHONY

SAN DIEGO

The California Theatre, which houses our chapter's 2/13 Wurlitzer, has become the temporary home of San Diego's "Old Globe Theatre" group during reconstruction of their theatre in Balboa Park, which was destroyed by arson. We have signed a mutual agreement with them, whereby we may present pipe organ concerts at the theatre in-between legitimate theatre production dates. January's plans include Charlie Chaplin's *The Goldrush*, along with a pipe organ concert featuring the ever-popular Del Castillo at the console.

Our organ crew is hard at work on the restoration project of a 3-manual Wurlitzer console which was donated to the chapter by Douglas Maxwell of San Mateo, California. This con-

sole, along with other miscellaneous equipment included in the gift, will be used to enlarge our present installation at the California Theatre.

Memories of a very eventful 1979 were recalled by this writer (and chapter chairman) during the last meeting of the year. These included pipe organ concerts by Ramona Gerhard Sutton, Bob Vaughn and Harry Jenkins; the National Convention's memorable San Diego Day with concerts by Dennis James, Ashley Miller and Hector Olivera; the annual pot-luck meeting at Sandy Fleet's home (to the accompaniment of his mighty Wurlitzer D); and a Halloween costume party at member Jim Hansen's Southland Music Center, where Rodgers organs (both theatre and classic, with pipes) are installed. New officers for 1980 were then presented with their "pipes of office" by the outgoing chairman at the well-attended Christmas party, when 70 members traveled to the Rancho Santa Fe home of Jan White. Homemade goodies plus a Conn 642 and two Steinway grand pianos were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Chapter members look forward to an "organ crawl" promised by our new chairman, Coulter Cunningham, among the plans for 1980.

TIM KREIFELS

SIERRA

Our November meeting at Arden Pipes and Pizza was the premier concert appearance of Gary Konas, a Sierra Chapter member and a student of Bill Thomson. Commenting that this was indeed his "lucky day," Gary used that number for a very jazzy opener, followed by three lesser-known Rodgers and Hart tunes.

Gary has a college degree in enology (wine chemistry). If his wine is as good as his "Days of Wine and

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Roses," it must be delicious.

Gary had given everyone a printed program, which contained a list of nine blank spaces entitled "Comedians Medley." As he played each number the audience was asked to name the piece and the comedian whose theme music it was. How many would you have known: Groucho Marx — "Hooray for Captain Spaulding;" Danny Thomas — "Danny Boy;" Jimmy Durante — "Inka Dinka Doo;" Bob Hope — "Thanks For the Memories;" Jackie Gleason — "Melancholy Serenade;" Jack Benny — "Love in Bloom;" Milton Berle — "Near You;" Red Skelton — "Holiday for Strings;" and Burns and Allen — "Love Nest."

A medley from *They're Playing Our Song*, a current musical, was well-played, but, like much of today's music, it is easily forgettable.

Gary obviously researches each of his numbers and comes up with very interesting comments about them. "Voices of Spring" brought the comment that it was a failure when first composed. A brief history of "I've Got Rhythm," and its star Ethel Merman, preceded a hot and jazzy presentation of that number.

The closing number was "I've Got You Under My Skin," which Gary said was a George Wright arrangement. He played it beautifully.

Gary received a fine ovation and returned for a rousing "Stars and Stripes Forever." You'll be hearing from Gary Konas! He's got the talent, the personality and the know-how necessary to become a fine concert organist.

During the six weeks prior to Christmas, a local theatrical company took over the Golden Bear theatre for a musical presentation of *A Christmas Carol*. Our chapter was asked to present a half-hour overture, and intermission music, using

the Seaver Memorial Wurlitzer. Five of our members, Stu Boyer, Jim Brown, Gary Konas, Jim Maples and Randy Warwick played Christmas carols and music suitable to the occasion. An enormous setting of an old English street scene covered the entire stage and extended out over the orchestra pit. Our console sat in the spotlight to the right of the big set. A large, talented cast and beautiful costumes and lighting all combined to make the show a terrific success with sixteen sold out performances.

December ninth was a beautiful, warm sunny day and members arriving at the Golden Bear Theatre found the lobby festooned with Christmas decorations and tables loaded with holiday goodies and beverages, provided by board members and their wives. The "Christmas Carol" set formed an appropriate background for our annual Christmas party. Chairman Jim Hodges introduced the newly-elected Board members for 1980: Carroll Harris, Gary Konas and Harvey Whitney. Jim then presented two "gringos" who seated themselves at the Wurlitzer and a large Hammond on stage. Art Phelan and Chuck Shumate gave out with some very nice toe-tapping duets.

A couple of "Swingers" were next on the program as June Anderson and Jim Hodges gave us a nose-flute duet with Randy Warwick at the organ. A carol sing-along, with Joe Gustin at the organ and Carroll Harris projecting slides, closed the formal part of the program, which was followed by open console.

Harry and Bernice Kline and John and Cindy Carleton, did the planning as well as the heavy work for our Christmas party. Art Phelan provided the Hammond, and Carroll Harris the projection equipment. It

was a party in the true Christmas spirit.

KEYZANPEDALS

SOONER STATE

November found members of our chapter gathered at the home of Phil and Laura Judkins. The business session included more discussion of a home for our Robert Morton. Progress is being made, but there's still nothing definite as yet.

As chairman, your correspondent then announced that by unanimous vote of the board of directors, we had approved the selection of an Honorary Member for 1980: our former chairman, and present program chairman, Phil Judkins. Phil is one of our hardest-working members and a long-time theatre pipe organ enthusiast. We presented him with a plaque to honor his selection.

Entertainment was an informal open console at the 3/8 Wicks, by several of our playing members.

Our December Christmas party was held in the home of John and Pauline Price, an hour's drive from Tulsa, in Cleveland, Oklahoma. John has installed the 2/10 Hillgreen-Lane hybrid he bought from Bruce Wilson (who lives an hour's drive away in the *other* direction from Tulsa, in Claremore) in a room he built by enclosing the carport of his Lakeland home.

This instrument is one of the organs chapter members helped remove (from Claremore) and relocate (in Cleveland) earlier this year. When we unloaded the truck that night, we piled organ parts anywhere we could in the bare room; we had stacked the chests in the empty chamber at one end of the room. Now the room is tastefully arranged with couches and chairs, has a rug, even a wood stove — and the console is the center of attraction at one

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end. Moreover, John has done an excellent installation job — would you believe an *accessible* pipe chamber, and *clean* besides?

Entertainment was a delicious potluck dinner, followed by open console at not only the pipe organ, but a Hammond organ in their living room.

DOROTHY SMITH

SOUTHEAST TEXAS

Al Sacker, founder of the Southeast Texas Chapter, died on November 26th (see Closing Chord). As its best memorial to him, the chapter has resolved to continue the work he so enthusiastically led — the reconditioning of his beloved Robert Morton organ in the Jefferson Theatre and the promotion of theatre organ music.

Chapter officers elected for 1980 included Floyd Broussard, chairman; Bill Tetley, vice chairman; Ruth Lindholm, secretary; Dick Jones, treasurer; Arthur Howell, membership chairman; Ira Williamson, *Vox* editor; Elizabeth Howell, historian; Thelma Debes, house chairman; and directors-at-large George Hockmeyer and Ralph Lindholm.

SOUTH FLORIDA

After a long, hot summer without theatre organ entertainment, our chapter got rolling into fall with three dynamite programs.

In August, a large turnout of members and friends gathered at Andre Hall, in southwest Miami, to hear Rob Calcaterra. Rob, who works as a language teacher in Indianapolis, Indiana, revealed himself to be also a very accomplished organist. His well-received program included a sing-along and a comedy short on Andre Hall's silver screen.



Rob Calcaterra at Andre Hall, Miami.
(John R. Cahill Photo)

Before leaving Miami, Rob made an unscheduled appearance at Vizcaya, John Deering's beautiful estate on the bay. The mansion contains a 3/23 "Welte Philharmonic Pipe Organ," complete with roll player.

Following closely on Rob's heels, Lyn Lunde, of Richmond, Virginia, performed a mid-September concert, once again at Andre Hall. Lyn used some of the more unusual fea-



Lyn Lunde at the Andre Hall console.
(John R. Cahill Photo)

tures of the organ, such as the accordion, to great advantage, delighting his audience from his opening selection all the way through two encores. Lyn, too, visited another installation in the area, making a late night stop at Gusman Cultural Center, formerly the Olympia Theatre, in downtown Miami. This 1926 atmospheric palace houses a lush-sounding 3/15 Wurlitzer. The hall was completely restored in 1972 at the behest of philanthropist Maurice Gusman — hence the name change. Gusman later donated the hall to the city.

The October show, on Halloween night, featured the talented and popular Walter Strony at the Gusman Center Wurlitzer. The Halloween show is cosponsored by the chapter and *The Miami Herald*, which provides production assistance as well as free advertising in the form of giant ads appearing daily for over a month. Walter made his Florida debut that night, playing a variety of concert selections and accompanying a silent-era comedy-thriller. His program was well-received and brought out many first-time theatre organ program attendees.

The chapter closed out a very successful year with Dennis James playing the mostly-Wurlitzer in the beautiful Coral Gables Estates home of member Cal Juriet. This annual Christmas season party is a special treat for members only.

M. KINURA

TOLEDO AREA

Our Marr & Colton console has taken on a new look, thanks to the hard work and long hours of three TATOS members. Charles Parker, Karl Koella and George Merickel stripped the finish, made repairs where needed and spray-painted the

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console. We had money donated for new keys and another member paid for an all-new pedalboard. The bench was repaired and it looks like new.

We had two more concerts to finish a successful and rewarding year. November 3rd brought Bill Pedrick to our city, sponsored by Great Lakes Organs and Pianos. Bill's unique styling at the Baldwin organ appealed to all. On December 8th, Howards Pianos and Organs brought us the ever-popular Don Baker. This was a wonderful experience to hear a pipe organ master at work. Excellent!

Enthusiasm is running high, with a beautiful console and a new administration. Our new leader is Arthur Howard, an organ technician with a degree in music. Larry Biggs is our new V.P., and is well-known in the area for his work with model trains. Thomas Steiner remains as treasurer and your correspondent remains as secretary. Dave Ring remains as restoration chairman.

January was "Complete the Restoration Month." Our restoration people have put in two weeks of 10-hour days. We are most anxious to complete our restoration by Easter, hoping 1980 will be our year.

ANN MOXLEY

VALLEY OF THE SUN

Our chapter held its annual business meeting and elections at the Phoenix Organ Stop restaurant on Sunday, November 11th. Officers elected for 1980 include: Charles Creighton, chairman; Delores Sheak, vice chairman; Kay Jones, secretary; Jerry Howard, treasurer; Julie Baker, statutory agent; and Bill Carr, program chairman. Bob Wright and Warren Bechhoefer were chosen members-at-large to the board.

Bob Read, well-known in Phoenix for many years for his keyboard performances at the Beefeaters and Top Hat restaurants, was heard in concert at the restored Wurlitzer at Phoenix College on November 17th. Much of his program was of a nostalgic nature, although he did play several contemporary numbers.

The chapter Christmas party was at Jed Nolan's Music Hall in Scottsdale on Sunday, December 2nd. VOTS member David Lindsay is organist and musical director there. While dining, we were entertained by Dave and his troupe of singing waiters, waitresses and busboys. Whenever possible, Dave involved chapter members in the Music Hall merriment. Even fellow organist Ron Rhode couldn't escape being crooned to by a very persistent waitress! It



Bob Read plays for the Valley of the Sun Chapter at the restored 2/9 Wurlitzer at Phoenix College.



Walt Strony played the Christmas concert at the Phoenix Organ Stop.



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Wolverine officers for 1980: (L to R) Lawrie Mallett, treasurer; Don Jenks, vice chairman; Tom Remington, secretary; and Ed Corey, chairman. (Max Brown Photo)



Burt Castle at the 3/28 Moller in the Scottish Rite Consistory in Bay City, Michigan. (Ed Corey Photo)

was a really delightful evening.

The following Sunday, several chapter members attended Walt Strony's Christmas concert at Organ Stop. It wasn't a chapter-sponsored activity, but Bill Brown always recognizes our group and tells others about the purpose and projects of ATOS. Walt gave an excellent performance. The Laurel and Hardy silent film *Big Business* was fun, and Strony's rendition of music from *Porgy and Bess* was outstanding.

Now that we have the Phoenix College Wurlitzer playing, we look forward to a fuller concert schedule in 1980. Funds raised by these concerts will help us to continue restoration of the college organ and get us started on our Marr & Colton project.

MADELINE LIVOLSI

WOLVERINE

On Sunday, November 4th, we spent a very entertaining afternoon as member Burt Castle hosted our meeting at the Scottish Rite Consistory in Bay City with its excellent 3/28 Moller concert organ.

Burt's varied program included the song "Dream Of The Past" written by a long-time Wolverine member, Fred Bayne. The program included songs from comics such as, "When The Movies Started To Talk" to the classics such as, "Romanza," by Purvis. Burt closed his program with, "I'd Love To Spend One Hour With You" which is his theme for the weekly radio broadcast from the Temple Theatre in Saginaw.

On Sunday, December 9th, about

80 Wolverines and guests gathered at Glenn Rank and David Voydanoff's "Wurlitzer House" for our ninth annual potluck dinner and business meeting.

The owners of Wurlitzer House each have their own Wurlitzer. David has the 3/6 Wurlitzer from the Lancaster Theatre in River Rouge, Michigan, and the instrument is installed and playing. Glenn has the 3/10 Wurlitzer from the Cinderella Theatre in Detroit which is in the process of restoration.

Following a fantastic feast, a brief business meeting was held and the officers for 1980 were elected. They are Edward Corey, chairman; Don Jenks, vice chairman; Lawrie Mallett, treasurer and Tom Remington, secretary.

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