

better pick carefully among the Educational. There are a few comedies by Alice Howell, Max Davidson, Gail Henry, "Sweedie" (Wallace Beery), "Ambrose" (Mack Swain), Fatty Arbuckle (most of them good), "Hogan" (Charley Murray), and the then-popular teams of John Bunny-Flora Finch, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Drew, and Harry Myers-Rosemary Theby. The team of Eddie Lyons-Lee Moran was good, but I can't find any of their products. The few available Snub Pollard comedies are weak.

We are fortunate that we have not yet exhausted the available supply of silent comedy. A rather widely-held view among those sponsoring organ-film shows is that comedy "goes over" better than serious films. Conversely, this is unfortunate, since there is some fine serious film on the market. Part of the trouble lies with our audiences who have been so conditioned to fragmented television movies and meaningless action that they have trouble following an extended story.

If it is true that patronage of theatre organ shows has declined in 1979, then it is none too soon for us to evaluate our silent-film offerings and make appropriate adjustments. If audiences are going to laugh at quaint or badly-made films (and pioneer films are good examples of rough film-editing, cheap settings, and over-acting), it's a certainty that such films cannot attract modern audiences indefinitely. □

Closing Chord

Marvin C. Bachofer, longtime member and officer of the Rochester Theater Organ Society, died on February 29th.

Having a love for the theatre pipe organ since his youth, his teacher was the late J. Gordon Baldwin, active in Rochester theatres. As an RTOS member, he served in numerous capacities, including publicity director and senior citizens coordinator. He was a member of the board since 1974.

He is survived by his wife, Marion, a son, David, a daughter Nancy and two grandchildren. □

ATOS Member Receives Distinguished Award

Richard A. Nichols, past-chairman of the North Texas Chapter of ATOS, has been named a Rockwell International Engineer of the Year as part of that company's annual program to honor its scientific and engineering community.

Nichols is a design engineer for the company's Collins Transmission Systems Division in Dallas, Texas.

In making the announcement, Rockwell International President Donald R. Beall said, "The Engineer of the Year honor is awarded annually in recognition of demonstrated technical excellence in engineering or scientific activities relevant to our company's business. The award takes on special significance when measured against the outstanding technological performance of Rockwell International's 15,000 engineers and scientists."

Nichols has been with Rockwell International for 27 years, having joined Collins Radio Company in 1953. (Rockwell acquired Collins Radio in 1973.) He is currently involved in the company's microwave product line.

"Dick's outstanding technical leadership, design expertise and high



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engineering standards are traits which have consistently resulted in significant contributions to the company's satellite and terrestrial telecommunications program," said Robert L. Cattoi, staff vice president of Engineering for Rockwell.

Rockwell International is the leading supplier in the digital and analog microwave market.

Nichols is a native of Preston, Kansas, and a graduate of Preston Consolidated High School. He attended Pratt Junior College, Kansas, and earned a BS degree in electrical engineering from Kansas State College in 1953. He holds four patents and is a charter member of the National Management Association, Dallas Chapter. □

OFFICIAL NOTICE

1980 ATOS Annual Membership Meeting

HORNCHURCH, ENGLAND
WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 1980
2:30 in the afternoon