



## CHAPTER NOTES

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Jan. 1st. for Feb./Mar.  
Mar. 1st. for Apr./May  
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July 1st. for Aug./Sept.  
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### ALABAMA

This spring has been busy for the chapter. In March we met at the home of Hal and JoAnn Radue. Members had a fantastic evening of entertainment playing the triple Wurlitzers — one piano and two organs. Everyone enjoys these informal get-togethers and looks forward to the next one.

April started off with the regular meeting at which chapter member Billy Evans graced the console of our mighty Wurlitzer. Billy plays extremely well and with real feeling, mostly because he remembers the good old days when Stan Malotte presided at the instrument. After Billy's fine performance, members geared up for a final push on ticket sales for the Walt Strony concert on April 20th. This concert was not as well attended as some others, but it certainly was a success from the standpoint of crowd response and performance by Walt. This remarkable young man provided a small, but enthusiastic crowd with a delightfully diversified program.

On May 11th, the sleepy-heads from the Atlanta Chapter descended upon the Alabama Theatre. Unfortunately they had been detained

briefly by one of Alabama's finest for traveling the interstate a bit too fast. The reason for their visit was a very special one for us, the opportunity to hear Trevor Bolshaw at the console. Trevor's ability to play the organ is remarkable. Arriving late afforded him absolutely no time for practice. He simply walked in, sat down at the console, pushed the "up" button and played. He had no trouble adjusting to the Wurlitzer, and before the morning was over, he had provided some of the most beautiful music that has ever been heard from this instrument. The chapter is very grateful to the Atlanta Chapter for bringing Trevor to our fair city and certainly hope to have him back for a longer visit soon.

June brought a new theatre organ talent, 16-year-old Dewey Barker, to the Alabama Theatre. He was right at home with pipes, although he is used to electronics and had only two practice sessions at "Bertha." His fresh stylings and different approach to some old songs had toes tapping. The chapter is always glad to have young people try their hand playing pipes and tries to encourage anyone who is interested.

It has been decided to have an August concert with Bob Ralston as guest artist. Bob, whom most people know from the Lawrence Welk Show, appears in Birmingham each year with the annual Festival of Sacred Music. This is attended by several thousand regular patrons and is a favorite with the people of this area. For those who would like to attend, make your plans to be here Sunday, August 24th, at 2:30 p.m.

We are happy to report that the Alabama Theatre is looking better every day. Chapter members have been working diligently to relamp the old house so that eventually the auditorium will be back to its origi-

nal brilliance. The management is most cooperative and we are enjoying a pleasant working relationship with them. The organ is frequently used for the movies shown by the theatre and is currently being used on a regular basis for the well-attended Ladies Shopper Matinees. The Alabama Theatre and its mighty Wurlitzer are a rare treat and anyone planning to visit Birmingham in the future should make every effort to see this beautiful part of our past and present.

CECIL WHITMIRE

### ATLANTA

Trevor Bolshaw and Ruth McDonald presented a recital at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta on May 4th. ATOS member and local artist Bob Van Camp introduced the artists and spoke briefly on the *raison d'être* of the chapter. This resulted in five new memberships and the sale of many tapes.



Ruth McDonald and Trevor Bolshaw at the console of the 3/13 Robert Morton in the Jeff Seale Studio, Laurel, Mississippi.

Trevor Bolshaw, a native of Walsall, near Birmingham, England, rode the Mighty Mo's lift up with "Vitality." After another number, he introduced Ruth McDonald of Atlanta, Georgia, who took over to show her remarkable virtuosity at the Steinway. The program continued with several more solo selections as well as duets.

The Fox Moller was in excellent repair, and from beginning to end, the joint concert was a masterpiece of musicianship and showmanship enjoyed by ATOSers and the public in general.

Stay tuned, as the chapter plans to present another show of this kind next season.

On the morning of May 10th, 33 hardy souls boarded a chartered bus for the long trek to Laurel, Mississippi, where Trevor Bolshaw and Ruth McDonald were to repeat their pro-

gram at the Jeff Seale Studio. The studio boasts an impeccable 3/13 Robert Morton and a Steinway grand piano. On hand to greet the group were Laurel hosts Tuddy Soley (owner of the organ) and Senton Granberry. While the artists took time to familiarize themselves with the instruments, the others toured the First Presbyterian Church and heard a mini-concert on the magnificent Aeolian-Skinner.

The performance by Trevor and Ruth was enthusiastically received by the Laurel contingent. One encore was a duet in honor of Don May, whose efforts in no small way keep the Robert Morton in shape.

At 5:30 the following morning, the group was on its way to the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham for a joint meeting with the Alabama Chapter. Trevor did the honors solo on the Alabama Wurlitzer since Ruth had returned to Atlanta for another engagement. The instrument was in excellent condition and it is a tribute to Trevor Bolshaw that the first note he played on it was his console-raiser. The Alabama Chapter had a good turnout, and thoroughly enjoyed the program. What a weekend!

WARREN WILLIAMS

## CENTRAL INDIANA

The chapter held its May meeting at the Unity Truth Center in Indianapolis. Attendance included 55 members, guests and church members. After the business meeting, Mrs. Virginia Rechteris, sister of Hall of Fame member Dessa Byrd, was mistress of ceremonies for the day. Virginia is the organist at Unity Truth Center and Sue Downs is relief organist. Virginia is a former organist for radio station WISH and is now playing for WISH-TV.

Following her opening selections, Virginia introduced Berniece Fraction, a lyric soprano, and provided piano accompaniment for her first selection. Berniece will be singing the leading roll in the opera *Aida* with the Indianapolis Opera Company in September. Then Sue Downs took over the console for two numbers in her own unusual style, after which she was joined by Virginia at the piano for an organ/piano duet arranged by Virginia.

On June 9th, a goodly group gathered at a public concert given by Tom Hazleton at the beautiful Para-

mount Pizza Parlor on the east side of Indianapolis. This was Tom's first visit to the area and his concert was a delight to all. It was an excellent performance, including classical, popular and in-between tunes. For Donna Parker, one of the house organists, he dedicated a series of selections in honor of an exciting upcoming blessed event. Tom is a very talented organist, and he mentioned that at the age of 17, he was delegated to play this very organ when it was located in the Paramount Theatre in Oakland, California. The next night found him playing a classical concert at the Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ. The proceeds from this concert were donated to the Dessa Byrd Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Frank and Frances May of Kokomo, Indiana, hosted a group of about 100 members and guests in their home on Sunday, June 15th. They have a home installation, which Frank fondly calls the "Contraption." This organ is a 3/11 Barton (#199, 1923), enlarged to a 4/18 by the Mays in a 12 to 14 year retirement program. Two club members, Larry McPherson and Kurt Schackel, provided the musical program for the day.

Ron Rhode will be in Indianapolis to play at the Paramount Pizza Parlor in September, and Tom Hazleton will also return at a later date.

Later this fall, the chapter is looking forward to bus tours to Chicago and Detroit.

MARY HARRELL

## CENTRAL OHIO

May organ activities began on Saturday evening, May 10th, when Virgil Fox performed at the Ohio Theatre in Columbus. His program was a combination of classical organ, performed at his traveling Allen Digital Computer organ, and the best of theatre organ style performed at the Ohio's 4/20 Robert Morton theatre pipe organ. A capacity audience greeted this famous American organist with a most gratifying welcome and rewarded the artist with their rapt attention and enthusiastic response throughout the evening. An old-time sing-along proved to be an ever popular addition to an already outstanding evening's entertainment.

The following weekend found



COTOS member Chris Phillips plays during open console at Shady Nook. (Bob Clark Photo)

COTOS members and guests at the Columbus home of Dr. and Mrs. Karl Saunders. Following a brief business meeting, Dr. Saunders presented an excellent program at his Allen 435 Theatre-Digital Computer organ. Dr. Saunders explained some of the operational details of the Allen and fielded questions from the audience on technique and operation of the instrument.

A good crowd of about 30 COTOS members and friends drove to Hamilton, Ohio, on June 8th, for an afternoon of food and entertainment at the Shady Nook Theatre Restaurant. The Shady Nook's 4/30 Wurlitzer is from the Chicago Theatre and was used by Helen Crawford when she played in duet with her famous husband, Jesse. The restaurant's resident organist, Carl Craeger, presented a delightful variety of music during dinner. The management allowed an open console session for our talented COTOS artists and we were doubly entertained by Kevin Sowers as he played the Wurlitzer with considerable skill and then performed vocally with Mr. Craeger accompanying. Kevin has talented hands and a beautiful voice to match; continuation of his training at Capital University in Columbus should produce an outstanding talent.

June 22nd found COTOS mem-



Kevin Sowers sings while Shady Nook resident organist Carl Craeger accompanies at the 4/30 Wurlitzer during the June meeting. (Bob Clark Photo)

bers assembled on a farm in the country for the annual potluck picnic. The lovely home of Karen and Marvin Boerger near Irwin, Ohio, was the scene for fine music and outstanding food. The guest organist was Ted Gyson, former organist for a now-defunct Columbus pizza/organ restaurant. During the brief business meeting Chairman Dr. John Polsley announced the receipt of a \$500 gift from Emcorp, Inc. for further work on the restoration of the chapter's 4/22 Wurlitzer at Worthington High School. This is the second sizable gift in recent times and will greatly assist in the ever-growing expenses of restoring and maintaining a theatre pipe organ.

Other reported activities in the area included a concert on May 11th, at South Congregational Church in Columbus by Mike Williams, former member and former president of COTOS, now living in Coshocton. On May 17th the Palace Theatre in Marion, Ohio, featured Tom Gnaster and Allen Miller in a musical extravaganza with the Wurlitzer pipe organ and concert grand piano. The duo repeated their program on Sunday, May 18th, presenting enthusiasts with a multiple opportunity to hear fine music and visit a beautiful atmospheric-style theatre.

For anyone living in, or traveling through the Columbus area this summer, there is again a fine opportunity to hear theatre pipe organ at its best. The Summer Movie Series at the Ohio Theatre began on June 20th with Dennis James presenting his prefilm concert and intermission music. The series runs every weekend throughout the summer months providing classic films, theatre pipe organ music at its finest, and a valuable opportunity to enjoy the Ohio Theatre at a price that anyone can afford.

BOB AND PATTI CLARK

## CHICAGO

Many will recall that it was at the Mosque and Byrd theatres in Richmond that theatre organ got a good start from Reginald Foorte's recordings done at these theatres. Now we have another gift from these theatres in the person of Lin Lunde from Richmond, Virginia. Early birds and enthusiasts turned out at 7:30 a.m. to hear Lin in an outstanding performance at the Chicago Theatre. His style of appearance, conduct and superb handling of this excellent Wurlitzer combined to create a program that rewarded all those present for their early-morning efforts to attend.

A rather unusual social was held at Pedal Pumpers and Rolls in Elmhurst, a store that specializes in old coin-operated music machines and a photoplayer. It was a pleasant and educational Sunday afternoon as many of the music machines were demonstrated.



Following his Chicago Theatre appearance for CATOE, Lin Lunde meets with organist Barbara Sellers and her mother, ATOS Hall of Famer Edna Sellers. (Petzke Photo)

CATOE member Jim Challender reports that the Joliet Rialto is closed for awhile for a thorough restoration. It is now a performing arts center for Joliet and has an excellent Barton which will get a face lift also — good news!

Saved by actually just a few minutes was a 2/5 Barton in the Plumb Theatre (formerly the Lyric) in Streator, Ill. Jim Gruber, Greg Simanski and Allen Erickson happened to be in the area and noticed the raised wrecking ball about to demolish the building. Quick work and thinking prompted Gruber to acquire the organ and some fast moving kept them ahead of the wreckers. The organ went to the Meisners for installation in their home. Thus, another pipe organ has been saved!

June may have been busting out, but not all over on the 15th when Walter Strony appeared at St. Mary's of the Lake College Auditorium, in Mundelein, Ill. A cool 55 degrees prevailed in contrast to the temperature in Phoenix, Arizona, Walter's base of operations at Pipe Organ Pizza. But the weather had no control over Walter's marvelous performance. His varied program included something for almost everyone. The sing-along was just enough and the silent comedy film just right. The almost full house displayed unanimously happy faces. Included were two busloads of senior citizens, arrangements for whom had been made by Fr. Franzman. They loved it and want more!

All too soon that Thanksgiving bird will be with us again. Then comes the dessert, Chicago's Week-ender, November 28th, 29th and 30th. Planned is a super program of organs, artists, a banquet with entertainment and an opportunity to be with friends again. Get your registration in now. Send to CATOE, Box 25, Glenwood, Ill. 60425. It is

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ALMER BROSTROM

## CONNECTICUT VALLEY

On May 17th and 18th Hector Olivera appeared at the Thomaston Opera House. All three manuals of the Marr & Colton got plenty of action as this spirited artist held forth at the console. This, his first appearance at Thomaston, had been eagerly anticipated. In this case, Hector's reputation had preceded him. He managed easily to extend it through several counties in Connecticut with a nicely-varied program played very skillfully and obviously very much enjoyed by all present. We can be sure of a return engagement.

The June meeting this year also introduced chapter members to something new — the recently restored 3/15 Wurlitzer, Opus 501, so elegantly installed in the home of Ernie and Beth Boda in Stratford. This is indeed a fine example of how to save a theatre organ. Pipes are neatly installed in the chambers; adequate access to all ranks has been provided and tidiness is evident everywhere. The console has been restored in similar manner, and shows it. To give all this a proper introduction to the membership, a grand gesture was made to engage a special artist, to be announced later in the evening.

Preceding the evening concert was the always enjoyable open console session and a short business meeting, during which life membership in Connecticut Valley Chapter was bestowed upon members Everett and Eleanor Bassett who have moved to Florida. Everett has contributed to national ATOS activities and both he and Eleanor have added immensely to local chapter activities. We wish them great joy in their new surround-

ings. They will be greatly missed.

When Program Chairman Joe Graif's turn came to present the artist for the evening, he once again showed his accomplishment as program chairman when he brought forth Ashley Miller, the artist for this delightful occasion. A fine program followed and was concluded by a special feature with Ashley at the console, and host Ernie Boda at the grand piano. This was a most fitting finale to the evening's formal program. The chapter is indebted to the hosts of the day for Ashley's presence. This is hospitality and then some!

We are most pleased to note our forthcoming concerts at Thomaston Opera House: September 13th and 14th, Ashley Miller; October 17th and 19th, Lyn Larsen; November 15th and 16th, Lee Erwin; and December 6th and 7th, Lew Williams. All are welcome and information and tickets are available via stamped envelope from CONCERT TICKETS, Box 426, Seymour, CT 06483. Telephone (203) 888-9696.

WILLIAM F. POWER

## EASTERN MASS.

Rex Koury made his first appearance at the Stoneham Town Hall Wurlitzer in May. After 50 years experience since his 1928 Rahway Theatre days, he certainly is master of the king of instruments, with his easy style, sensitivity and aplomb.

An audience pleaser was a silent film *A Day in the Life of Rex Koury or, This is the Life* — Yuk with tailor-made accompaniment. This film was released by "Repulsive Studios" and produced by A. Major Fiasco. Another concert highlight was his TV series *Gunsmoke* theme which he divided into a four-part suite.

The following evening Rex was again in great form at our Babson College Wurlitzer. Variety charac-

terizes all of Rex's programs. The lighting manned by Dick Johnson added to the presentation.

This big weekend affair ended with Rex's second encore "Smile Awhile." His great music will definitely linger on.

At Stoneham Town Hall on May 25th, the business meeting was short with Chairman Royal Schweiger presiding.

Douglas Forbes, the guest soloist, was then introduced as the chapter's first theatre organ scholarship recipient and student at the Boston Conservatory of Music. He publicly thanked the membership for their assistance. It was a great show of much talent, study, practice, knowledgeability of the organ and audience poise. We wish him well.

In June, Pat and Rosalie Fucci again opened their home for our last meeting before summer recess, featuring their 4/20 Robert Morton. Never before rained out, this was a rain-in with about 50 members and guests filling their basement music room. Harry Jacques and Tim Bjareby accompanied two silent films. Recently ailing Lenny Winter brought smiles as he again played. He and many other members kept the bench warm for the balance of the day. Many thanks to the Fucci's for all they have done for EMCATOS over the years. It is appreciated.

STANLEY C. GARNISS

## GULF COAST

It's coming! It's coming! Slowly, but surely, the chapter's Wonder Morton reproduction is taking place. It is great right now, but in another month you will see even greater strides.

Since the Saenger Theatre in Pensacola, Florida, was closed for restoration, everyone has been busily working to get the organ ready to go

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Dr. B. D. Rhea working on the new console shell for the Wonder Morton.

back into the theatre when it reopens. The organ had to be completely removed during the restoration. In lieu of chapter meetings, workshop sessions are being held to get the organ and the second chamber ready for the big day.

B. D. Rhea, M.D., is working on the console shell. Chairman Tom Helms is also doing a great amount of work. He has built a voicing machine and is in the process of voicing some of the acquired ranks for the Robert Morton-to-be. Jim Scoggins of the Reuter Company and Jim Peterson, of Ft. Worth, have both been helpful on this project.

Member Miles Frisinger has completely reworked the Chrysoglott and has agreed to undertake other precussions. All this time he is working on the two Robert Mortons in his home in Dothan, Alabama. Other willing helpers include Walter Smith, Bob Sidebottom, Curt Goldhill and Harold Scott. There is work for everyone.

Members are deeply disturbed over the sudden illness of Mrs. Elizabeth Rhea, wife of our chief mentor. She is always most gracious when we are at their home working or when she is hostess for our post-concert parties.

The chapter has been approached to provide organ music for a future Pensacola Symphony concert. As soon as the organ is operational

again, it is hoped that many organizations will use it for their programs.

DOROTHY STANDLEY

### LAND O' LAKES

Sunday, May 4th, found chapter members in Spring Valley. There, in the flat farmlands of southern Minnesota, stands a dairy barn like many in the area. This particular one is very special as it is the lovely remodeled home of the Dr. Matson family and their 2/7 Wurlitzer. This year Gary Konas, from California, was scheduled to perform, but due to illness was forced to cancel. With only four days notice, chapter member Karl Eilers stepped in and presented an enjoyable program. Karl, training for an appearance on June 8th at the Hinsdale Theatre, played very well and members, anxious to hear him again soon, wish him luck.

One special event every year is the concert at Byron Carlson's home. On June 21st, the chapter had the opportunity to visit his beautiful home, especially designed for his 5/21 Wurlitzer. This year, Lou Hurvitz flew in from Washington, D. C., to perform. The organ sounded magnificent under Lou's skillful hands, and the efforts of technician Terry Kleven were evident. From the opening number through the marches, ballads and encores, the audience was in a state of ecstasy. It had been nearly two years since Lou last played for the chapter, and it is hoped that it won't be so long a time before he returns.

MICHAEL ERIE

### LONDON AND SOUTH OF ENGLAND

In late May we presented the brilliant young Dutch artist Hans Nottrott at the 4/16 Wurlitzer in the Gaumont State Kilburn Theatre. He provided an exceptionally fine performance of both dexterity and musicality. He also has a fine LP record

to his credit made at the distinctive Wurlitzer in the Tuschinski Theatre in Amsterdam.

Hans Nottrott, 24, is one of the most promising young organists to emerge from Holland. He started with accordion study and then turned his attention to the electronic organ, which led to his interest in the theatre organ. He is now very much in demand for theatre organ concerts in the Netherlands and at various venues in the UK.

The day was tinged with the sadness of the departure, after 14 years as the most energetic and organ-minded manager of the Gaumont State, of our good friend and ATOS member, Mr. Bill Weir. He has been appointed manager of the Rank Organization's prestigious West End cinema and live theatre, the Dominion Tottenham Court Road. To offer him our chapter's best wishes and congratulations on this important appointment, and thank him for his cooperation and ready assistance during our three years of prime concert presentations at Kilburn, we presented him, as a mark of appreciation, an inscribed quartz carriage clock and a souvenir photograph album. Happy it was, therefore, that Bill Weir's last day at the Gaumont State should be spent with our chapter.

Pauline Dixon and Stephen Vincent, respective winners of our 1978 and 1979 "Young Theatre Organist of the Year" competitions, are being featured during the convention at the Granada Harrow Wurlitzer. Michael Wooldridge and Janet Dowsett, runners-up in the 1979 competition, will entertain at electronics during the convention banquet. Pauline has also had important theatre and electronic organ dates recently and her big event of the year will be in October when she will play the Thursday Museum Balaban and Katz



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(Style 4) 3/19 Wurlitzer that is to be featured by Len Rawle as the Grand Finale event of the convention. Michael has also had an electronic date with the Maidenhead Organ Society recently and Janet was featured in a 20-minute solo spot before an enthusiastic capacity house at the Granada Kingston-upon-Thames 3/10 Wurlitzer. Stephen is also going to Manchester to take part in a special recording session at the British Broadcasting Corporation's own 3/13 Wurlitzer (ex-Empress Ballroom Blackpool) before an invited audience for the BBC's "The Organist Entertains" programme along with Ernest Broadbent, who was one of the great names to play this organ in its original home, and several other top-ranking British pipe and electronic organ stars.

The May event featured the ever-popular international organ ambassador George Blackmore at the console of the 3/19 Wurlitzer. Convention Overture recitalist at the Gaumont State Kilburn, George has composed a stirring new march, "ATOS on Parade," to be premiered at that event and published by Phil Baldwin in *Home Organist and Leisure Music* — with copies available to conventioners.

By contrast, the June Club night was presented by master organ-builder Frank Fowler, managing director of the famous Hill, Norman and Beard Company (of Christie theatre organ fame). He combined sensitive playing with most articulate technical explanation and demonstrations in response to members questions on pipe and electronic mechanisms, tone colours and effects of all kinds.

In between, we were also able to feature our famous and much-loved member Doreen Chadwick, at Wurlitzer Lodge, while she was in the London area for two concert engage-

ments. Typically, Doreen gave us of her absolute best with a widely-varied programme exploiting the full range of this favourite organ in her impeccable style.

We are looking forward to the ATOS Silver Anniversary Convention here in London and we look forward to greeting representatives of all 55 chapters of our great worldwide society.

## LOS ANGELES

"The finest performance of his career," was the most frequent remark made about Lyn Larsen's chapter-sponsored program on the newly-installed Pasadena Foort/BBC organ. Those who had missed Tom Hazleton's great dedication concert the month before were amazed at the spectacular sounds of the 5-manual, 28-rank instrument that has been so expertly revoiced and tuned to fit the auditorium's acoustics by Dave Junchen and Steve Adams. (See the feature story elsewhere in this issue.)

A concerted promotional effort resulted in newspaper and radio publicity throughout the Los Angeles area. Attendance was 1500. Twenty-four members of Valley of the Sun and Southern Arizona chapters came for Lyn's program and remained for a weekend of organ crawling. Les Brewton, head of Leisure



Lyn Larsen.

(Stufoto)



Gaylord Carter.

World's Keyboard Concert Club, brought three busloads from Laguna Nigel for the event and the local AGO chapters gave us whole-hearted support. Thanks to all!

The week before Lyn's program Bill Worrall and *Keyboard World* magazine provided LATOS with booth space at the Home Organ Adventure in Hollywood. With the help of Sam Dickerson, Avis and Karl Schmill and Don Wallace, our booth was manned throughout the four days of the show and we distributed souvenirs, membership brochures and scholarship award announcements to the thousands who attended the annual event. In addition to the LATOS booth, the Wicks Organ Company displayed and demonstrated its new custom home pipe organ. The combined efforts of LATOS and Wicks helped introduce many of our electronic-oriented friends to the theatre pipe organ world. Over 50 new members have been signed up within the past month.

In June, LATOS joined forces with the Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association to sponsor Gaylord Carter at the Perkin's Palace (formerly the Crown Theatre) in Pasadena. This program, a part of AMICA's annual international convention, featured Charlie Chaplin in his famous short *The*

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*Immigrant* and (rarely seen) *The Circus*.

Theatre manager Peter Crotty had the beautiful Wurlitzer in top form for the show, and, as always, Gaylord was terrific! The 1921 movie palace has been almost completely redecorated since last year's ATOS Convention and we're planning to include the use of the Palace in our future concert schedule.

## MOTOR CITY

May activities began with a chartered bus excursion to the Lansing area, organized by Fred Page. The first stop was at the Michigan Theatre for the Wolverine Chapter's First Saturday program there featuring Fr. Jim Miller at the 3/12 Barton. Then it was on to the Roaring 20s, in nearby Okemos, to hear Dave Russell and Rob Richards perform at the Wurlitzer, while members calmed hungry stomachs, with pizza, of course.

The Michigan Theatre, in Ann Arbor, now belongs to the City of Ann Arbor, which has turned operation of that facility over to the newly-formed Michigan Community The-



Fr. Jim Miller at the Michigan Theatre (Lansing) Barton organ. (Fred Page Photo)

atre Foundation. On May 3rd, in the midst of a three-day "Meet the Michigan" promotion, Dennis James performed in concert at the 3/13 Barton and accompanied a silent comedy. Many good comments were heard following his program, designed to introduce the Barton, which is maintained by the chapter, to Ann Arbor residents.

On May 10th Loreen Lee performed for a public show at the 3/10 Barton at the Redford Theatre. Also appearing on the same bill was the Meadow Brook Estate, a group of young singers and entertainers, whose name is borrowed from the locally-famous Rochester area mansion of the same name.

Our annual garage sale, for the benefit of our Buy the Redford fund, was held at the Redford Theatre on June 6th and 7th. It had been scheduled to run through Sunday, June 8th, but there was nothing left to sell.

A relative newcomer to our ongoing one-Sunday-each-month series of free theatre pipe organ concerts is the Punch and Judy Theatre in Grosse Pointe Farms. Ever since our first public program there, in 1968, the theatre's 600-seat capacity has always presented a problem when it comes to making any sort of profit. Fortunately, following several changes in ownership and management, we are now able to embark on what we hope will be a continuing series of Sunday programs, as well as a public concert scheduled for September.

Appearing at the now-2/6 Wurlitzer at our First Sunday event at the Punch and Judy Theatre in May was Lionel LaMay. Ed Walsh presented an equally-enticing program there in June. Ed also played the Punch and Judy Wurlitzer during a Detroit Symphony Orchestra benefit held at the theatre a few weeks later.

Our artist at the Second Sunday program at the Michigan Theatre, in Ann Arbor, in May was Dave



House organist Dave Russell at the Wurlitzer in the Roaring 20's in Okemos, Michigan, during a visit from the Motor City Chapter. (Fred Page Photo)



Ed Walsh played the Punch and Judy Wurlitzer for the First Sunday event in June.

(Dorothy Van Steenkiste Photo)



Lionel LaMay at the now-2/6 Punch and Judy Wurlitzer during his May program. (Bob Becker Photo)

*Donna Parker*

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Ron Morocco at the 3/16 Barton at the Royal Oak Theatre during his Fourth Sunday concert in June. (Fred Page Photo)

Brewer. Dan Packard performed at the 3/13 Barton in June.

Gregg Yassick was the artist for our Fourth Sunday program at the Royal Oak Theatre in May. Ron Morocco appeared at the Royal Oak's 3/16 Barton for our June presentation.

DON LOCKWOOD

## NEW YORK

The New York Chapter, ATOS, is emerging from a period of dormancy, with new life being spirited into it by recently elected chairman, Bob Godfrey, and a new board of directors. Among the many projects being started are theatre organ concerts played by organists of true concert calibre.

Beginning in May the New York Chapter presented a program on the 4/23 Robert Morton at 175th Street played by Lew Williams, an exceptionally good theatre organist with a thorough background in classical organ, and on June 8th, a program by Lance Luce on the Ben Hall Memorial Wurlitzer at Carnegie Hall Cinema.

Those who attended the Lew Williams program, reported that he played an excellent concert.

With Lance's opening number, "I Feel a Song Coming On" played with both feet, he gave the Sunday morning audience every assurance

that he was no left foot (only) organist. He approached the 2/9 Wurlitzer as if it were the big 4/58 instrument at Radio City Music Hall, where he was recently the house organist, and produced an interesting big hall effect.

He was somewhat less successful with some of the softer, ballad type selections on the program. Much too often the accompaniment, altho interesting harmonically, obliterated the melody line, and frequently the counter melodies were a bit too loud for the registration being used. Registrations, for the most part, were well planned, colorful and interesting. The temporary absence of a combination action proved to be no obstacle for the young organist.

Youth has a style in all things. Lance Luce brings the sound and feel of his age to the theatre organ as a natural step in the evolution of theatre organ playing, the very thing that will keep this art alive and progressing rather than idolizing the Crawford/George Wright hangover. Several other selections on his program made this statement.

It might be wise for the young players to remember, however, that some jazz figures which originated on another instrument are more effective on an electronic instrument, the piano or a synthesizer. Also, many of those figures have a tendency to sound a little old-hat when played on theatre pipes.

The Lance Luce program was definitely a step in the right direction. It was a success, in spite of the small turnout (31 people)! With continuing recitals like this one, and the enthusiasm evidenced, the New York Chapter can once again be worthy of its place in the theatre organ world.

The Ben Hall organ at Carnegie Hall Cinema sounds better each time. Donald Schwing, who maintains the instrument, is to be com-

mended for his excellent work. Four additional ranks are to be added, and hopefully, a new three manual console. The original console will be refurbished and kept with the instrument. Another twin console organ in Manhattan will make us quite unique!

Lee Erwin has just completed the current series of silent film programs at the Cinema. The programming was a new idea inaugurated by the Cinema management last spring. Instead of a silent feature coupled with a sound film, the schedule called for a complete silent film show — feature film, short subjects, cartoons, newsreels, song slides, organ solos; the whole works, each Wednesday, and three shows a day! Similar programs will resume in the fall.

MARLIN SWING

## NOR-CAL

Due to a sharing of the responsibility for this column and the misplacement of a photograph, we neglected to report that Dennis James gave a wonderful concert for us last January 20th. We were treated to his new arrangement of "March Slav," another monumental work. We look forward to his return visit within the year.

On May 18th the chapter visited the place where the installation of theatre pipe organs in pizza restaurants all began. Members heard a thoroughly-entertaining concert by Bill Langford at Ye Old Pizza Joynt, hosted by Carsten Henningsen. Bill began his program with a monologue spiced with humor. He is a unique artist at a unique instrument. The basic Wurlitzer organ has percussions and special effects not found elsewhere. With Bill at the console, the unit orchestra comes alive. The effect created sounds like there is more than one musician —

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Bill Langford at Ye Old Pizza Joyn in May for Nor-Cal.

but the second person so distinctly heard is not there!

After the concert, the members were treated by Carsten Henningsen to a visit to his warehouses which contain his amazing collection of antique automobiles, a restored 4/20 Wurlitzer, a restored European orchestrian, a Wurlitzer band organ, a calliope and a steam locomotive. We are indebted to Carsten and Bill for a delightful Sunday afternoon.

On June 29th, David Kelsey played for the chapter for the first time. Dave is an extremely popular local artist with a large following in the San Francisco night club scene, where he plays electronic organ and piano. In spite of the fact that pistons were not set for him, he gave an excellent performance at the Redwood City 4/23 Wurlitzer, utilizing many individual combinations and exhibiting great dexterity on all manuals. His feeling for the music is evident in his registrations and phrasing. We hope we hear more of David Kelsey on pipes.

Prior to the June meeting, the Nor-Cal board of directors met to discuss our continuing efforts to obtain our own chapter organ. Secretary Art Woodworth was selected by Chairman Jim Dunbar to be the official chapter representative at the national convention in London. He was instructed by the board of di-



David Kelsey at the Redwood City 4/23 Wurlitzer in June.

rectors to volunteer San Francisco as a site for the 1985 Convention, as it will be the tenth anniversary of our last highly-successful convention. Two new Wurlitzer installations will be available: a 4/26 in the 3000-seat Oakland Paramount Theatre of the Arts and another 4/26 in the Castro Theatre in San Francisco. Both of these promise to be excellent installations and both are presently more than 50 percent complete.

RUDY FREY

#### NORTH TEXAS

The June chapter meeting was a fine affair. It was hosted by Trudy Adelmeier in Garland, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. A Hawaiian Luau complete with all the trimmings was planned. But, who can "Luau" when the outside temperature is 104 degrees? So it was held in the comfort of Trudy's beautiful air-conditioned home. The Adelmeier residence has theatre organ type plug-ins.

Trudy and her late husband, Josef, escaped East Germany and Bavaria after Hitler's defeat in World War II and came to Texas. They founded a highly-successful sausage business, and created a beautiful home, with true "old country" charm. A large chapter turnout enjoyed the afternoon, with lots of organ music and some fine Luau refreshments.

Chairman Gene Powell called the



Trudy serves Fred Garrett and Loyd Hess during the June meeting in her home. (Jan Nichols Photo)

business meeting to order. After approval of reports, he led the quorum into the discussion of the Wonder Morton project. To date, members have put in over 1350 hours of work on that organ. The site committee is still evaluating all the locations proposed, and is involved with the executives of the sites being considered. One of the advantages of our organization is the opportunity to be involved in many different crafts. What better way to encourage the preservation of the theatre organ than to proceed with the actual preservation of these instruments?

We now have 118 members, with more applications pending.

Time was then spent discussing the list of candidates for the national board election. The qualifications of each candidate were reviewed and



Trudy Adelmeier demonstrates her abilities at one of her three consoles. (Jan Nichols Photo)

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Irving Light plays at one of Trudy's consoles.  
(Jan Nichols Photo)

each member was urged to vote for whoever he thought was best qualified. The future of THEATRE ORGAN was also discussed. There is a strong feeling of satisfaction with the current publication and there were caustic comments about "commercialization" of the publication.

Gil Swift and his wife, Sylvie, have the responsibility for John Beck Hall and its fine theatre organ installation. He made some comments about the status of the repair project on the instrument. We previously mentioned that the John Beck Hall organ had been featured on TV. During the filming of the chambers, one of the TV cameramen accidentally fell into a rank of pipes and 25 were damaged and required repair or replacement. This is the reason for delaying another session at John Beck Hall. We were then treated to a fine opening concert by Loyd Hess at the console of the living room organ. Loyd fully demonstrated his theatre organ capabilities with a series of numbers both old and new. After his encores, Chairman Gene took over for a while, followed by various and sundry members of the group at the various consoles available there at Trudy's.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon, emphasizing the advantages and some of the by-products of belonging to the North Texas Chapter of ATOS. For a nice finale to that pleasant

afternoon, Irving Light, our chapter's gain and the L.A. Chapter's recent loss, finished up with a series of real oldies from the heyday of the theatre organ. Our special thanks to Trudy Adelmeier for being such a fine hostess, and thanks too to all the guest artists and "open console" who helped make it such a nice session.

JOE KOSKI

## OREGON

On the weekend of May 17th-18th, the chapter formed a musical caravan to visit Newport, Reedsport and Coos Bay on the beautiful Oregon coast, before turning inland to Eugene.

The first stop Saturday morning was at the Atonement Lutheran Church, in Newport, to hear and



Bob Shafter played the Rodgers Trio at Glenn and Marie Briody's open house in June.  
(Claude V. Neuffer Photo)



Joe Gray at the console of the Billy Woods special (originally in the Oaks Park Rink) now in the home of Mary Pitts.  
(Claude V. Neuffer Photo)

play the Style D Wurlitzer, modified for liturgical use. Visited that afternoon was the harbor-view home of Mary Pitts, where everyone enjoyed the four-manual Wood organ, formerly of the Oaks Park Rink in Portland. Then a short, but excellent program by Gerry Gregorius at a new Rodgers in the Beautiful Savior Church, in Reedsport, was followed by open console.

Sunday morning found the group further down the coast at the Egyptian Theatre in Coos Bay. There is a full and complete Wurlitzer in each chamber, controlled by a four-manual console. The massive ensemble of the two organs is most impressive.

Inland, in Eugene, a visit was paid to Ed Mass and his Wurlitzer. This fine little organ has two sets of swell shades and a player mechanism. Ed also operates a model live steam Atlantic-type locomotive.

This was a most enjoyable tour, and included wonderful scenery as well as organs. Special thanks are due to Paul Quarino for his help with registration on unfamiliar instruments.

On June 21st there was a fine turnout at the home of Glen and Marie Briody for a social and musical evening. The guest artist was Bob Shafter, new to the Portland area, from Seattle. Bob studied organ first with Jo Ann Harmon in Salt Lake City, and then with Buss McClelland in Seattle. Bob's program at the Briody's customized Rodgers offered a wide



Joe Gray at the Wurlitzer in the Egyptian Theatre in Coos Bay.  
(Claude V. Neuffer Photo)



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display of versatility and talent. Thanks to Bob Shafter and to Glen and Marie for their hospitality.

The chapter is happy to report that in checking with pipe organ owners at this meeting, none have experienced any problems with volcanic ash from Mt. St. Helens.

BUD ABEL

## POTOMAC VALLEY

Member Bob Stratton was the super artist at the May 18th meeting. He played a delightful and varied program at the 2/6 Robert Morton theatre organ installed in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Utica, Maryland. The instrument was featured on page 24 of the August/September, 1979 issue of THEATRE ORGAN. Bob had played this organ at the opening of the Capitol Theatre in Winchester, Virginia, in 1929. This was the second annual concert the chapter has held at the church and we hope to continue the series.

Chairman Lee Prater announced that the Dow Evelyn Wurlitzer would be moved to its new site at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, on May 24th, and asked for volunteers to get the job done. Bob Stratton is to be the crew chief on this, the second chapter-owned installation, the other being at the University of Maryland.

Sadly, it must be reported that on May 23rd, Bob fell while working in a church and broke his right hip. An



On the mend. Shortly after his May program, Bob Stratton fell and broke his hip. Bob is crew chief for the Dow Evelyn Wurlitzer project.



Some of the many volunteers that helped move the 2/9 Wurlitzer to its new home at George Mason University. (Harold R. Richmond Photo)

artificial hip has been implanted and everyone wishes Bob well and hopes for his speedy recovery.

Moving day came on Saturday and there were about twenty willing volunteers to help move the 2/9 Wurlitzer from the Evelyn home to the university. As usual, this is hard, dirty work and was done on a typical muggy Washington area day. The organ will be installed in a brand new auditorium on campus with organ chambers already there. Those who participated deserve a round of thanks. They are: Al Baldino, George Johnson, Bruce Ricker, Ken LaCapria, David Johnson, Stanley Gossard, Ron Miller, Lee Prater, Ardis Sneddon, John Sneddon, Dow and Edith Evelyn (the donors), Ted Ansink, Paul Glies, Stan George, Ron Kragler, Larry Bavry and Frank Fordham.

On May 3rd chapter member Doug Bailey played the little red Wurlitzer at the Weinberg Center for the Performing Arts in Frederick, Maryland, as part of the Miss Frederick pageant, which is also part of the Miss America pageant.

DICK HAIGHT

## PUGET SOUND

Chapter members enjoyed a sunny Sunday in May when they journeyed

north to Vancouver, Canada, for a concert at the Orpheum Theatre featuring Dick Schrum.

The June chapter meeting was held in Tacoma, Washington, with a premeeting open house hosted by Homer and Jane McKee Johnson. Guests were invited to play the beautiful resident orchestral pipe organ which is a "Homer-Jones" theatre special. The console is custom made by Rodgers and has a Peterson relay and switchstack. Open console featured Eddie Zollman, Sr., and Mahon Tullis, two well-known area theatre organists. Members also had the opportunity to play. Everyone then gathered at the Tacoma Pizza and Pipes where Jane McKee Johnson plays on Sundays. Dick and Margaret Daubert graciously hosted the concert by Andy Crow at the 3/17 Wurlitzer, Opus 2128. A staff organist at this Tacoma location, Andy also teaches and is nationally famous for his concerts and recordings. A short business meeting was followed by open console. It was indeed a good get-together.

THELMA R. SMITH

## RED RIVER

A dozen or so members gathered at the Fargo Theatre for another major moving job on May 10th. The new hydraulic lift had finally arrived a few weeks prior, and was unloaded backstage. Fortunately, a friend, John Sandgren, from FM Forklift, Inc., offered his services, including a forklift. He carefully maneuvered the machine through the theatre's front doors, lobby, just clearing the main auditorium doors, and putted down the center aisle to the orchestra pit rail. With the forks securely under the three-manual console, it was plucked out of the pit and set on the main floor. Using extenders, and a chain, the 2400-pound lift base was



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lowered from the stage into the pit. Next, the platform was moved and placed on the lift while it was in full up position. Hardly an hour-and-a-half later, the console had been lowered onto the new lift and all agreed it was a job well done. Unfortunately, the lift arrived one week *after* the spring show. But, all is working smoothly and the audience at the next show will see something new.

The popular Halloween-time movie *The Phantom of the Opera* is the chapter's next feature, set for Octo-



Red River members assist in placing the Fargo Theatre Wurlitzer on the new lift.

ber 30th, with Lance Johnson at the Wurlitzer.

Chapter member Kit Grove recently moved to California where he has a position with Walt Disney Studios in Burbank. Kit provided many ideas for programming, as well as equipment, and helped with special effects for concerts.

The last meeting until fall was held May 18th at the lake home of Lance and Judy Johnson. Except for some brief business, it was mostly socializing. Andreas Royrvik, one of the newer members, provided entertainment with his accordian. Andreas has several records of Norwegian folk songs and dances to his credit and recently had a book of his arrangements published.

On Thursday, June 26th, a group of high school students who are in a summer theatre workshop at Moorhead State University, in Moorhead, Minnesota, will have a private matinee at the Fargo Theatre with Hildegarde Kraus playing several selections and Lance Johnson scoring a film for them.

SONIA CARLSON

## ST. LOUIS

A new arrival in St. Louis, and a native of Budapest, Father Joseph Somos is not only an ordained priest and language master, but also an accomplished organist, composer, musician and member of the Philharmonic Society of Hungary. He received part of his musical education at the Pontifical Academy of Music in Rome under the tutelage of Erich Arndt, first organist at St. Peter's Basilica, and Pierre Cochereau, French music professor and organist at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Father Somos has performed on Radio Vatican and has given numerous recitals in both Europe and the United States. At our spring meeting, he thrilled everyone with mag-



Father Somos at the console of the 4/72 University Church organ in Budapest, Hungary.

nificent solos at the organ at St. Mary of Victories Catholic Church where he is pastor. We are happy to welcome Father Somos to this area and feel fortunate in having such a gifted resident, especially one who keeps the welcome mat out for ATOS-ers.

Norm Kramer, former stadium organist who is in sales at the Taylor Music Store, hosted the April meeting and showed his talents at the console of a top-of-the-line Lowrey electronic theatre organ. As an added treat, one of the store's piano teachers, Lee Hessler, played a medley of different types of piano music in her own charming manner.

During the Decoration Day weekend, a group from the St. Louis Chapter were guests of the Bill Oberg family in Memphis and an outstanding time was had by each and every one. Bill, a talented organist and great showman, started things off at the Orpheum Theatre 3-manual



Bill Oberg at the console of the 5/115 Kimball in the Memphis Auditorium.



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Wurlitzer with a variety of show tunes. The next stop was the Memphis Auditorium where Bill played another inspiring program at the Kimball 5/115. The final stop allowed all to enjoy the Oberg's hospitality at their home where a 3/12 Wurlitzer theatre organ is installed. Everyone agreed that this was one of the best home installations they had seen and that the voicing was superb. Bill played another program, this time strictly of the theatre organ variety. Everyone enjoyed open console for all three organs and all expressed their sincere thanks to the Obergs for a truly wonderful time.

BILL ANTHONY

## SAN DIEGO

With the increased availability of the California Theatre this summer, the chapter's 2/15 Wurlitzer is really getting a workout. In addition to being played several hours every Saturday by members, regular concerts have been presented throughout the spring and summer. With continued concerts planned for the fall and winter, the chapter will have presented eight concerts by the end of the year.

Chris Gorsuch inaugurated the spring and summer series May 17th with a rousing concert at a much revitalized organ, which reflected the many hours spent in rewinding and tuning. Gaylord Carter was very much surprised and pleased with the total effect of the installation when he presented a concert and silent movie accompaniment on June 7th. Local artist Tommy Stark followed in a patriotic vein on July 5th.

In addition to concerts, chapter activities include fun membership meetings, which began in February with a gathering at the home of Wayne and Cheryl Seppala. This was followed in April by a buffet dinner

planned by Bob Brooks and served on the stage of the California Theatre. It was a well-attended event. The June meeting also took place in the California Theatre, and featured a showing of three silent shorts accompanied cold by some of the members.

The chapter has inaugurated a fund raising campaign among members and other pipe organ lovers for the purpose of installing a multiplex relay system and electric stop action on the 3-manual console now being refurbished by members of the organ crew in the home of the chapter chairman. This console will replace the present 2-manual Style D. The multiplex relay is being built by Gorsuch Enterprises of San Diego.

COLTLER CUNNINGHAM

## SIERRA

A miracle of modern electronics, played by Tom Thompson, captured everyone's ear at the May 18th meeting at the Devtronix factory in Sacramento. Tom gave a 50-minute concert that had many of those present trying to decide if it was the instrument or the musician that had them most in awe. He played a wide variety of styles and even included a ballad of his own, composed on a plane during his years as a touring Hammond factory artist.

Following Tom's performance no one exactly rushed up to be first at open console, but, finally about seven brave souls took turns at the gleaming white Devtronix console. The instrument is beautiful and everyone agreed that, despite Ray Devault's comments that there had not been time before the concert to balance and adjust the instrument, it does sound and play very much like a pipe organ. Many thanks to Ray Devault, owner and designer of the Devtronix and Tom Thompson for an interesting and enjoyable meeting.

In between the regular monthly concert-meetings was an informal open console get-together at Grant High School at the 4/22 Wurlitzer. About eleven members turned out on May 22nd to have a go at a genuine "big rig" without the pressure to perform perfectly or perish as one might feel at a regular meeting. Art Phelan put his effort on tape while Elbert Dawson drove fifty miles from Concord to try this Wurlitzer. Gary Konas, a most up-and-coming theatre organist from Sierra Chapter acted as tour guide around the many tabs on the big four-decker.

The afternoon of June 8th the chapter met at Arden Pizza & Pipes to hear the Bay Area's master of improvisation at theatre pipes, Larry Vanucci. An organist who creates great rapport with his audience, Larry is most self-effacing and modest. The selections were mostly of Larry's specialty, the big band era, and, oh, how the "Vanooch" did make that 4/20 Wurlitzer swing.

In other matters, the chapter is working with the City of Sacramento in remodeling of the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium project to help restore the ailing and no longer used 4/46 Estey. Like many municipalities launching a performing arts related project in an era of funding shortages, the plans will not include extras, like the organ, unless there is substantial community support. This instrument, while not really a theatre organ, is typical of the results of many builders and organ committees of the twenties. Their concepts of what should define the stop list of an organ were confused, so this Estey is a kind of hybrid. Local ATOSers have not previously shown much interest in it, yet, it is a big, beautiful orchestral-style pipe organ installed in a 4400-seat, 1920's era auditorium in a city that has already destroyed



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virtually all of its movie palaces. The first step will be to replace the Estey console and its unreliable and impractical guess-which-stops-are-on-lighted-button-type of registration system. So, here we go.

RANDY WARWICK

### SOONER STATE

May started out in fabulous style for those members of Tulsa's Sooner State Chapter who journeyed to Wichita to hear Hector Olivera perform at the Wurlitzer in the Century II Auditorium. Hector's concert was pure joy, particularly during the "cypher caper" he improvised while playing "Dizzy Fingers" until the offending pipe could be located. Those attending were Bruce and Martha Wilson, Hervey and Janice Barbour, Phil and Laura Judkins, Bill and Lois Roberts, Bob and Betty Weddle, Jack and Lou Beindorf, Lee and Dorothy Smith, Jeff Smith and Bob Busby.

Phil and Laura Judkins hosted the May meeting. Their 3/10 Wicks during open console never sounded better, and Joe Crutchfield made it even more so. The main business of the evening was the presentation of the new chapter constitution and by-laws, which were approved unanimously as written.

The next day the Pipe Packers Platoon assembled to take out yet another pipe organ! This one was a four-rank Robert Morton, to be removed from Tulsa's St. Paul's Methodist Church. Part of it is to be added to the Weddle's Robert Morton, to give them seven ranks; part is to be added to Phil Judkin's Wicks; and the rest goes to Dr. Jim Routsong. As always happens, this was installed with the idea that it would never be taken out! Betty Weddle was the only one little enough to crawl under the main chest to get at the screws holding it to the floor. We accumu-

lated a bucketful of screws before the rest of the organ came loose from the walls. We eased big pipes, chests, regulators and swell shades around corners and down steps... then trudged back up the steps for more.

We finished up on Memorial Day — which had to be the hottest day of the year so far! The blower, with its heavy motor, was hauled up from the kitchen in the church basement. And although the console was not to be used, we took it as well, to salvage for parts. The church commended us on the clean-up job we did before we left. Then of course it all had to be unloaded, mostly into the storage building in the Weddle's back yard.

Pipe Packers for the move were Bob and Betty Weddle, Phil Judkins, Lee and Dorothy Smith, Jack and Lou Beindorf, Hervey Barbour and Bill Schimpff.

The June meeting was held in Harry and Beth Rasmussen's cool outdoor driveway patio. Harry has converted half his garage and the attached former servant's quarters into a studio for his Artisan, and is now in the process of wiring in several new ranks into the three-manual instrument. The business meeting centered around further discussion of finding a home for our group-owned Robert Morton; we still have several good prospects, but nothing definite as yet.

DOROTHY SMITH

### TOLEDO AREA

Chairperson Art Howard scheduled another successful Orgathon for April 20th-27th. This is an all-out work session with both the ladies and gents taking part. The daily hours of 12:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. saw much work accomplished.

On May 31st, TATOS had another first — a free electronic organ concert. Treasurer Tom Steiner donned

his clown suit and had the crowd in stitches before the concert and during the break. There was also a bake sale in the lobby. The artists were TATOS members, six in all, and the audience loved it. The program was a huge success and donations were most rewarding.

On June 7th and 8th, the chapter took part in the third West End Festival. This year, member Don Greenman opened his home to the chapter and a Gulbransen spinet organ, furnished by Great Lakes Pianos and Organs, was placed in the front driveway. The combination of all-day organ music, available snacks and a TV raffle was highly successful.

The chapter's annual summer outing will be in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Dan Recker.

Members are looking forward to another concert soon, and are in hopes of one during August.

### VALLEY OF THE SUN

In lieu of any chapter sponsored activity for the month of March, our members were encouraged to attend Ron Rhode's spring concert at the Mesa Organ Stop Pizza restaurant, where he gave an excellent performance. The grand finale featured Ron at the piano and Lyn Larsen at the Wurlitzer.

It was back to Organ Stop again for the April 20th meeting, where members were entertained by manager Mike Everitt at the console. Afterwards, members participated in open console.

The May social was held at Phoenix College where featured artist, Program Chairman Bill Carr's demonstration of the Phoenix College Wurlitzer contributed greatly to a fun evening.

May 23rd-26th, twenty-one members and friends participated in an

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Father Jim Miller at the 2/10 Barton installed in his Fenton, Michigan, home. (Ed Corey Photo)



David Russell at the 3/27 Wurlitzer in the Roaring 20's Restaurant in Okemos, Michigan. (Ed Corey Photo)



Rob Richards, one of the staff organists at the Roaring 20's Restaurant in Okemos. (Ed Corey Photo)

organ crawl in the Los Angeles area. The weekend started with the Lyn Larsen concert at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. During the next three days, stops included San Sylmar, the Bell Friends Church, the Orpheum Theatre, West Culver City Baptist Church and four residences. It was an exhausting, but most enjoyable holiday weekend.

The chapter is unable to use the Phoenix College Auditorium for concerts until late fall, due to rebuilding and construction. In an effort to find other ways to raise money, members held a profitable Flea Market in the college parking lot on June 7th.

The June 22nd social was a pot-luck luncheon at the Mesa Organ Stop. The luncheon was followed by an amusing slide presentation of the May organ crawl.

MADELINE LIVOLSI

## WOLVERINE

In May, the chapter joined with their friends from the Motor City Chapter in sponsoring a bus trip from Detroit to Lansing to attend the monthly first Saturday program at the Michigan Theatre. Fr. Jim Miller was presented in concert at the 3/11 Barton.

Following the concert, the group once again boarded the buses and headed for Okemos, Michigan, and the Roaring 20's Restaurant for lunch. There the group spent the afternoon being wined, dined and entertained by staff organists Rob Richards and David Russell at the 3/27 Wurlitzer installed in the restaurant. The organ was installed under the direction of Ken Crome of the Crome Organ Company in Los Angeles. It is maintained by the

writer, Wolverine Chapter chairman.

In June, the chapter was once again treated to the music of Fr. Jim Miller as he hosted our meeting at his Fenton, Michigan, home which contains his 2/10 Barton with piano.

The organ was originally installed in the Ready Theatre in Niles, Michigan. The installation in Fr. Jim's home is an especially nice one. It speaks directly from the chamber and seems to flow down the open stairway and fill the entire living area with beautiful sounds. Contrary to the experience of so many, this organ is not at all harsh and yet still retains the sparkling clarity which is so often lost when attempting to dampen the spirit of a "beast-in-the-upstairs," so to speak. With over seventy people in attendance, there was necessarily a lot of "close" socializing.

ED COREY



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