



CHAPTER NOTES

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CATOE

Walter Strony from Phoenix, Ariz. and well known to most CATOers, plus many enthusiasts in the States, performed June 15th at St. Marys of the Lake Auditorium, Mundelein, Il. This was a well-attended concert with two busloads of senior citizens from Holy Name Cathedral sponsored by Fr. Franzman, who is an enthusiast devotee of pipe organs. Walter generously gave of his talent and sent the audience away fully satisfied. He presented a well-rounded program encoring with Tchiakovsky's "Waltz of the Flowers." Thunderous applause indicated the approval of Walter's performance.

The Genessee Theatre in Waukegan, Il., was the site of our June social featuring Stanley Hightower, then manager of the Chicago Theatre. It was a very interesting program which was followed by a visit to see and hear the 3/19 Mazey/Barton in the Church of the Immaculate Conception. CATOer Mark Noller was the organist and showed the capabilities of this interesting instrument. Mark always gives a beautiful performance as he did this day.

Paul Schreves has a unique in-

stallation of a Conn 650 plus a wind-operated toy counter section and a Decatur marimba, all playable from the 650's console. Over 75 attended Paul's open house when Debbie Ayotte beautifully performed for several sessions. Many of those present also gave of their talent. These affairs are always enjoyable and welcome. Recently, Vi and Bill Spencer of Largo, Florida, ATOS members of long standing, were Paul's guests for about two weeks.

Lin Lunde from Richmond, Va., was the soloist at our Chicago Theatre May early bird (7:30 a.m.) social. Lin is all he is reputed to be in the world of music. Several, upon hearing him, remarked that the program was more like a concert than a social. Lin is a superb musician and he will be the organist at our October 12th Chicago Theatre All Star Review which will be a great treat!

Cathy and Harry Koenig were guests of the Russ Josephs in Bella Vista, Ark., recently. Harry gave an impromptu concert for several area organ clubs that gathered for the occasion. Harry used a Conn Martiniqne loaned by Russ' contractor, Glenn White. Harry was asked to give a full concert for the group in November — a sign of their approval of his performance and program.

CATOE is one of the chapters that holds elections in May so the new board can take over July 1st. The voting of our past election resulted



'TIS THE SEASON

To send holiday greetings with a special Christmas Pro-Card in THEATRE ORGAN.

Send copy and \$15 by Nov. 15.

in: John Peters, chairman; Gary Bergmark, vice chairman; Barbara Meisner, secretary; Beverly Barton, treasurer; Virginia Ferroli, membership; and Almer Brostrom, editor, Joseph Duci Bella, Bill Benedict and John Gendvilas, board members at large. Though being a board member is a lot of work, it is interesting and enjoyable.

ALMER BROSTROM

We first met Rob Richards when he was one of the 2,800 people who heard Lyn Larsen and Hal Pearl re-premiere the Chicago Theatre Wurlitzer on October 2, 1975. The 16-year-old aspiring organist from Aberdeen, S.D., was one of the many out-of-town visitors which CATOE hosted at that show. Much has changed in the five years since then, including Rob Richards' name. Back then he was Robbie Letherer.

On August 24th, Rob returned to Chicago for a CATOE event, this time to play a program for us on the WGN studio 3/11 Wurlitzer/Kimball. His program turned out to be more than just a regular monthly social for the club. It had all the polish and flair of a concert presentation. Long hours on the bench as associate organist at Organ Stop Pizza, Phoenix, with Lyn Larsen, and now at the Roaring Twenties Pizza in Lansing, Michigan, have left a positive mark. Rob has the "organ" part of "theatre organ" well under control. All of the basics of good organ playing including correct tempo, harmonies, and registration are present in his work. In addition, he has a good start on the "theatre" part of "theatre organ." His pleasant "console-side" manner indicates that he will be popular on the concert circuit.

A large crowd of over 125 were on hand for the program and to salute Al Field, our member, vice-president of WGN, and the strongest supporter of the pride of Studio Three. Al is retiring to Florida at the end of the year. CATOE marked his active support with the presentation of an engraved plaque by Chairman John Peters and Past Chairman Jim Taggart.

Rob Richards is far from retiring. His career on the concert circuit is about to begin. Look for many years of fine music and rewarding listen-



Organist Rob Richards with WGN vice president Al Field. CATOE presented Al with a plaque to mark his retirement. (Gib Petzke Photo)

ing to come from him. Late on the night of his program, Rob was hosted at the Chicago by CATOE and Chairman John Peters. Perhaps some day we will be able to hear Rob Richards fulfill a dream he first had five years ago, the dream of most organists, to play a program at the fabled Chicago Theatre.

RICHARD J. SKLENAR

CENTRAL INDIANA

It has been a hot summer in our territory. We have all hunted a cool breeze all season.

On July 15th, our group traveled southwest to George Rogers Clark land, Vincennes, Indiana, to hold the monthly meeting in Green Auditorium, Vincennes University. Attendance was smaller than meetings held locally — 35 members present. The musical program was presented

by the university music teacher, and host, Dick Ertel, at the 3/12 Wurlitzer, which was originally installed in a small theatre in the state of New York. Following his performance, there was open console with our members playing the fine instrument.

The heat was still with us in August, but on August 17th some 70 members and guests spent the day at the home of Ed Morris. This was a combined picnic and meeting. Several took advantage of the fine outdoor swimming pool at Ed's home.

Larry McPherson gave us an excellent program of old-time favorites at the Ed Morris' home installation, a 2/9 combination Barton/Hilgren. Following Larry's performance, there was music from several other organists as open console was in order.

Due to the extreme hot weather this summer, our meetings have been short, but not our organ playing or just listening to organ playing.

There are a number of interesting things coming up for the fall season. Our chapter is anxiously awaiting a Ron Rhodes concert scheduled September 14th at the Paramount Music Palace, where, on October 13th, AGO and ATOS will hold a joint meeting with John Catherwood (Kalamazoo, Michigan) as guest organist.

The chapter is also planning a couple of bus trips, to Detroit, and to Chicago, to attend other chapters organ events.

MARY LOU HARRELL

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Through the kindness of Mr. Lester Lerch, the chapter has been able to purchase the original Tampa Theatre Wurlitzer organ (excluding the console) from the Bayshore Baptist

Church. By July 16th, all pipes, relays and associated equipment were removed from the church. So far, seven ranks have been releathered, including four ranks now in the Tampa Theatre. The completed organ will consist of 12 ranks. The three-manual Wurlitzer console was originally in the studios of WMCA in New York City and has been completely rewired and refurbished.

The Tampa Theatre, now owned by the City of Tampa, is an outstanding example of those theatres built in the late 20s and early 30s which were designed to provide complete family entertainment — movies, vaudeville, and, of course, a Mighty Wurlitzer. At present, the theatre has a variety of activities including rock, Western musical groups, and classic and silent films. The silent films are now accompanied on an electronic organ by Ewell Stanford, father of Charles Stanford who is the chairman of the CFTOS. Mr. Stanford was a theatre organist in his younger days. Mr. Stanford and Charles also teach organ, piano and voice and have their own music store in Tampa. The console, the pipes and the relays are also being stored at the music store while being checked out and repaired.

Just about all the active members have been involved in this work, which has included a great deal of good old-fashioned hard, dirty, and heavy work. Seth Evers, of Tampa, who knows his Wurlitzers, is crew chief of the project. It is now hoped that the organ will be fully operational at the Tampa Theatre in early 1981. It is felt that a fine Wurlitzer installed in this beautiful theatre will help boost interest in theatre organ, especially among the younger set who have not had the chance to be exposed to this unique form of

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musical entertainment and showmanship.

As part of this effort to develop greater interest in theatre pipe organ, a concert will be presented on Sunday, October 26th, at 1:30 p.m. at the J. Burns Pizza & Pipes in Tampa. The console, a three-manual Wurlitzer (the third manual was

will appear. She is 22-year-old Cathy Hoffman, who has been studying for some years and first appeared publicly when she was 16. She has performed for the Alabama Chapter, among other engagements. Her selections will be designed to illustrate her abilities and the flexibility of the Pizza & Pipes organ.

J. Burns fine pizzas.

Tickets can be obtained by writing (stamped, self-addressed envelope) to CFTOS, P.O. Box 24794, Tampa, Florida 33623. Tickets will also be available at the door. All proceeds will be used to defray costs of the installation at the Tampa Theatre.

JOHN OTTERSON



The three-manual Wurlitzer console (originally in the studios of WMCA in New York) is to be installed in the Tampa Theatre.

added about two years ago), was formerly in the Apollo Theatre in the New York area. There are 25 ranks, all visible, a toy counter, piano, xylophone, bass drum and more. The pizza emporium, J. Burns, seats some 550 persons and is an attractive restaurant with excellent acoustics which shows off the complete instrument to best advantage. The staff organist at Pizza & Pipes is Charles Stanford, chairman of the chapter. There are two other organists, who work under the supervision of Charles, Lin Phelps and Tom Hoehn.

For this special concert, a young, well-known Florida theatre organist

For those who might be interested in attending this concert and who may be heading toward Florida in late October, the J. Burns Pizza & Pipes is very easy to find. Simply take I-75 to Tampa and come off at the Fowler Avenue exit heading west. The address is 103 E. Fowler, which is near the corner of Fowler and Florida avenues — very close to I-75. Watch for the sign in front of a large building. There is plenty of free parking. Tickets will be \$2.50 and liquid refreshments will be available at a nominal cost. As the pizza place opens for regular customers at 4:30 p.m., those interested can stay for the regular show and get one of

CENTRAL OHIO

Chapter members took their annual vacation from each other in the month of July with no meeting scheduled. August saw a return to our regular monthly schedule when COTOS met at the home of Stella Collins on August 17th. Following the business meeting the group was entertained by Kevin Sowers playing Stella's Hammond Concorde. Kevin also sang for the group, accompanied by Martha Hoyle, an organ instructor from Dayton, Ohio, who was the guest of Dr. and Mrs. John Polsley.

Mrs. Hoyle later gave a marvelous impromptu demonstration of her skills, putting the Hammond through its paces with great ease. Early in her career, Mrs. Hoyle received a portion of her training on the theatre pipe organ in the State Theatre in Springfield, Ohio.

The nominating committee, Jim Blegen, JoAnn Lougher and Patti Clark, met to prepare a slate of candidates for the two board of directors positions which will be open this fall.

BOB AND PATTI CLARK

CONNECTICUT VALLEY

Those muggy, buggy, steamy and day-dreamy dog days of summer were upon us for our annual August get-together at Melody Hill, home of Stillman and Claire Rice, in North Haven. In an effort to beat the heat, or, at the very least, ignore it, 66 members and 12 guests gathered at

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the Rices' to relax in the welcoming amply-shaded environs and enjoy each others company and the music of the fabulous Allen Digital organ.

As a special surprise for this meeting, something new had been added to the Allen — "presence projection" speakers recessed in the bookcases on each side of the fireplace. Heretofore, all the organ speakers have been in the chamber above the living room and played down through the ceiling opening. The added speakers bring the sound into the room — the brightness of the tibias and the reeds, especially, are right in the room with the listener and extremely effective.

The special guest artist for the evening concert was Richard Grant Dick, who is the Allen organ overseer in the New York Metropolitan Area, is a talented performer and concert artist. E. Power Biggs ranked him as one of the best in pedal prowess.

Originally from Portland, Maine, Dick is essentially a serious classical artist with theatre organ tendencies. He received degrees from both the New England Conservatory and Boston University. Dick, accompanied by his petite and pretty wife, Evelyn, who assisted him as page turner, presented a program that was a pleasant mixture of a little of the new, a lot of the old, which included theatre organ arrangements by Bill Thomson and Rex Koury, and a bit of classical — Bach's "Fugue in D Major" which amply illustrated his pedal prowess.

Now that Dick Grant has showed his appreciation and aptitude for theatre organ, we hope he'll stay visible in these circles and wish him much success in a "new" career.

Part II of the evening's entertainment was a silent movie treat, a couple of films by those "beloved

bunglers," Laurel and Hardy, which were accompanied by our own Jim O'Connell at the piano who turned out to be a "whiz" at the job. Our thanks go to Jesse Rice for manning the projector, and "three cheers for the piano player." We should do this kind of thing more often.

Once again, we say "thanks a million" to Claire and Stillman for another memorable day at Melody Hill where the hospitality is always warm, the company congenial and the music balm for the soul. The Good Lord willing, we look forward to more of the same next year.

JUNE L. GAREN

DAIRYLAND

Back on May 3rd, our board of directors got up early for a special meeting at Milwaukee's Riverside Theatre. The object of the meeting was to get an idea of the condition of the theatre's 3/13 Wurlitzer. The organ, its console buried for years under a "temporary" stage, had been neglected and forgotten by everyone, except former theatre organist Conrad Walters. As the guardian angel of this Wurlitzer, Conrad has tried to minimize damage to the organ and has virtually intimidated anyone with any interest in removing the instrument. Occasionally he would play overtures or intermissions for movies or ask his grandnephew, Perry Petta, to do so. It was Perry who really brought this beauty back to the attention of DTOSers. The board, augmented by several professional member organists and technicians, looked and listened carefully. Despite the neglect, the Wurlitzer is very playable. Not as much work will be needed as was first thought to bring it to concert condition. DTOS has entered into negotiations with the theatre owners

and United Artists. Wish us luck!

In June, DTOSers were invited by CATOE to attend their social at the Genessee Theatre in Waukegan, Illinois. Stanley Hightower presented a lively program of his "least favorite" songs. This was followed by an open console session which several of our members took advantage of. Hearty thanks to CATOE for inviting us.

Our July social was held at the suburban Meguon home of member Gary Hanson. Gary, staff organist and assistant manager of Pipe Organ Pizza-North, lives in a barn which was converted into a residence in the 1930s. A beautiful setting for his 2/3 Wangren pipe organ. The organ came out of the Kaufman Funeral Home in Milwaukee and is complete with a reproducing mechanism. Thus, we had music whether someone was playing or not. Thank you, Gary, for opening your home to us for a very enjoyable day!

After the picnic many members went to Pipe Organ Pizza-North to welcome the new organist, Don Springer. Don comes to us from the Chicago area where he played for Sally's Stage. We welcome Don and wish him a long and successful run at P.O.P.!

Don replaces Perry Petta, who has struck out on his own. Perry played a very successful concert at the Senate Theater for the Detroit Theater Organ Club on August 23rd. We wish Perry, a very talented young organist, the best of everything and hope to see his name often on the pages of this magazine!

CARRIE NELSON PROD

GULF COAST

We have worked hard and long on our Saenger Theatre Robert Morton and we just couldn't wait any longer to hear it play. So one night we took

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one reconditioned and newly-polished Vox Humana pipe down to the empty theatre. There, amidst all the clutter of the restoration scaffolding, Chairman Tom Helms blew on the pipe so we could hear organ music in the theatre again. That shows how desperate we have become!

Work continues on this project. Dr. B. D. Rhea spends endless hours, with infinite patience, working on the console in his home workshop. The results thus far are stunning.

This will be the first year in several years that no one from the chapter attended the national convention. We are all looking forward to reading about this one and hope we can attend the next one.

Our chapter was saddened by the news of the death of member Eugenia Frisinger of Dothan, Ala. She and her husband, Miles are the proud owners of two Robert Mortons in their home. Miles is doing much to help in our Robert Morton enlargement. Our hearts go out to him at this time.

Tom Helms, after a busy summer helping us on our organ, can proudly display releathered regulators and chests to attest to his efforts. He leaves us temporarily for T.C.U. in Ft. Worth, Texas, to complete work on his degree. We'll miss him but we are already planning the concerts he'll play when he returns.

Our chapter was delighted to have Mildred and Leon Berry of Chicago, Ill., as guests recently. Leon spent part of his early childhood in this area and returned with Mildred to renew family ties. They previewed the restoration work at the Saenger and the Wonder Morton construction.

Walter Smith, Curt Goldhill and Bob Sidebottom are all helping with our organ work. The latter two are

planning the wiring necessary on the electronic switching system on the new organ. Electronics are wonderful considering the old pneumatic system!

DOROTHY STANDLEY

LONDON AND SOUTH OF ENGLAND

It was not until the latter part of the Silver Anniversary Convention in London that we learned that the slogan: 'The Time of Your Life,' that introduced our programme in the February/March issue of THEATRE ORGAN, had, in fact, been devised during the makeup stage of the magazine in the US. While it naturally gave our convention planning committee an even greater sense of responsibility in providing the best possible prospectus for such a uniquely auspicious event, it was in the very capable hands of Dr. Walter Beaupre to report the results and the impressions of our guests. Being equally conscious of also promoting the biggest and most significant international event in the annals of the British theatre organ enthusiasts movement, our chapter members had the time of *their* lives in planning and hosting this truly wonderful gathering of 300 friends, old and new. Conventioneers came from the USA (including one from Hawaii), Canada, Holland, France, Germany, Belgium, Australia and New Zealand.

As well as the great fellowship and mutual pleasure enjoyed during our memorable week together, we were especially grateful to everyone for making the special effort to travel to England to experience organ music 'our way' — particularly in view of the prevailing economic conditions.

Although we had early made it a 'rule' that our convention artistes

would be exclusively home-based, we did make strenuous efforts to try to feature the outstanding Australian console star Tony Fenelon in our 'Encore' presentation, as he was going to be in the UK during that week for the first time for eight years. While this did not prove possible, we were able to feature him in prime concert at the Gaumont State Kilburn 4/16 Wurlitzer on the Sunday immediately following the convention. Tony's exceptional keyboard talents and delightful personality resulted in just the uplift that we all needed, and one of the finest-ever musical performances and experiences at this distinctive console. Tony had long been on our 'wanted' list and this was a just reward for our protracted endeavours to feature him for the first time here in London. We fervently hope that Tony will be back soon.

Meanwhile, all our other regular chapter activities, Club Nights, the encouragement of new young talent, organ restoration work and 'outside' visits, continue unabated.

The next chapter report will cover our 'ATOS Tribute to the Gaumont State,' which will sadly mark the closure of the main auditorium of this world famous theatre at Kilburn in Northwest London, that has been our favourite prime chapter concert venue.

However, having long-maintained, and now restored, the uniquely distinctive 4/16 'Torch' Wurlitzer there, we naturally have a most strong interest in preserving its future — either in its present location, if access is still available, or elsewhere if it is not. Indeed, the 'Tribute' presentation is the first major step along this path, and we hope soon to be able to report favourably on this most deserving chapter project.

Donna Parker

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(Zimfotos)

LOS ANGELES

Something different in the way of programs for Los Angeles was presented in August. Billed as our "Summer Social" it combined the musical talents of three of our best young organists with a very special business meeting and refreshments and fellowship. Nearly two hundred members and friends cooled off from our summer heat at Loyola University to enjoy the sounds of the Mighty 10-rank Wurlitzer installed in St. Robert's Hall.

Opening the program was Chris Elliott (recently featured in a TO article). Next was Jeanette Acosta and, following the refreshment break and short business meeting, Dennis Derr made his official chapter debut. With music ranging from Tchaikovsky to 1977's "The Last Dance," if you closed your eyes you would swear each of our artists was a pro from the Golden Age. In truth, not

one of them is yet 20 years old!

With such marvelous talents no one need worry about who will play theatre organs in the future. They



New LA Chapter Life Members Harold Donze, Ann Leaf and Kathy Rodgers. (Zimfoto)

are already well on their way to stardom! The short and pleasant business meeting was called to induct four of our most important members into the rolls of Honorary Life-

time Membership in both LATOS and ATOS. First was Ann Leaf and, had he not been laid up with a cold, Del Castillo. Both have devoted almost their entire professional careers to entertaining millions of people around the world at the consoles of theatre organs! One who keeps the wonderful wind machines going was then recognized for his years of devoted maintenance work on LATOS organs — Harold Donze (the chapter hopes each year to recognize another organ technician for the essential contributions they make to keeping theatre organs alive). Kathy Rodgers was the fourth to be awarded an Honorary Membership for her 10 years loyal service in maintaining our 2,000 plus mailing list. Los Angeles now has eight Honorary Lifetime Members; — previously inducted have been Gaylord Carter, Marian Cook, Helena Simonton and George Wright. Following the formal pro-

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gram six members took advantage of open console at the Loyola organ.

Plans are now being formed for a repeat of Convention '79s marvelous "Encore" program on Catalina Island. Neighboring chapters are invited to join us for this all day excursion. We plan to make the trip in late Spring (before the tourist rush) so contact LATOS now if you'd like to be included. Of course, the beautiful 4-manual Page organ in the Casino Theatre will be the star attraction!

RALPH BEAUDRY

MAGNOLIA

September, 1977 — — — water!!! The nemesis of all theatre pipe organs almost destroyed the solo chamber of the Temple Theatre Robert Morton. The water problem was located, corrected and completely eliminated — we thought.

May, 1980. What we thought would never happen again, did. The emergency drip pan under the condensing unit of the ancient air-conditioning unit rusted out and permitted water to run a short distance across the ceiling to the solo chamber. The Tuba/Diapason offset, mounted along the wall, had six inches of water in it. The Chimes, Orchestra Bells and Xylophone were drenched. The work crew is hoping that these recently-releathered units will stand the wetting, and will not have to be releathered. One large reservoir and trem were soaked also. The trem was due for a rebuild, but the reservoir was rebuilt after the last wetting.

The damage has been done, but the Hamasa Temple has given the go-ahead for repairs to be made on the air-conditioning unit. After this has been done and the unit given enough time to be reasonably sure the problem has been corrected, the



T. R. Darsey sings "Danny Boy" at the Temple Theatre. (Tad Photo)

Mother's Day, and to make the concert more interesting, a taped recitation of Jimmy Dean's "I.O.U.," as recorded by Bill Pippen, was heard while Frank played "Mother" at the Robert Morton. Another added attraction was T. R. Darsey singing "Danny Boy," also accompanied by Frank. The only disappointment of the day was the lack of attendance. The event was not publicized enough.

May also saw the completion of Marl Cobler's percussion installation (some five months late), to his Lowrey electronic. For the past months, we have been reporting the



Marl Cobler and the completed percussion addition to his Lowrey. (Tad Photo)

chapter will once again rebuild what is necessary to put the Robert Morton in playing condition.

Fortunately the organ did not suffer damage until after the senior citizens' concert was held on Mother's Day, May 11th. This was the second of what is hoped to become an annual event, to be held during Senior Citizens' Month.

Frank Evans, at the console, presented a varied program. In honor of

progress of Marl and Sam Feltensteins add-ons. Both are now playing, but are by no means complete.

Most chapters have at least one member that is rarely seen or heard from, but his or her services are most vital to the chapter, and this chapter is no different. Sandy Scalco is the one that is absolutely necessary whenever we hold a concert at the Temple Theatre. Sandy is "Mr. Temple Theatre" and has been for

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Sandy Scalco, "Mr. Temple Theatre." (Tad Photo)

most of the theatre's fifty-three-year life. He is in charge of the lighting, the sound and the projection room. There is no one that is more familiar with the ancient light board, the 35mm Simplex projectors or the Western Electric/RCA sound system, than he is. Although the house is no longer used as a movie theatre, Sandy spends his spare time maintaining the equipment to keep it in perfect working order. Sandy has been president of the local projectionists' union, and is still a projectionist for the Plitt Village Cinema. Sandy, until better words come along, the Magnolia Chapter thanks you for all of your past services.

TOMMY DARSEY

MOTOR CITY

Rob Richards brought some family summertime fun to the Redford Theatre as he entertained at the 3/10 Barton on July 19th. For only a \$3.00 per seat admission, the audience was treated to Rob's accompaniment to *The Cure*, starring Charlie Chaplin, a sing-along with authentic song slides and a delightful concert. Since his move to Michigan, Rob has been featured organist at the Roaring

Twenties pizza parlor in Okemos. It was a grand night for singing.

Over 100 people attended the annual chapter picnic held this year at Murray Lake Park, a private preserve near Ann Arbor, on August 3rd. In addition to swimming and plenty of food, there was music in the air. Ed Walsh had brought with him (courtesy of the Wurlitzer Music Store in Taylor) a Wurlitzer electronic organ, neatly ensconced in the bed of a pickup truck. And here it was that one person after another entertained throughout the day, each mounting the makeshift "stage" by means of a convenient picnic table.

Our seventh annual private charter moonlight cruise on the 78-year-old excursion steamer Columbia, on August 14th, attracted an attendance of nearly 600, the largest we have had in the past six years. This yearly

On board the Columbia this year was an Allen organ, courtesy of Dunne Musical Associates in Flint. Dance organists were: Tony O'Brien, Stan Zimmerman, John Lauter, Don Haller and Lionel LaMay. Although we lost a little money, for the first time, due to a nearly-threefold increase in the cost to charter the boat, the three-hour cruise is for the benefit of members and their friends, and is not intended to make money. There were happy people everywhere and the dance floor was continually busy as we steamed up the Detroit River and out into Lake St. Clair.

The chapter presented Woody Herman and his orchestra live on stage at the Redford Theatre on August 16th. His program, which even made use of the Barton organ, was very well-received by those in attendance. His several appearances



Ed Walsh at the Wurlitzer organ he provided for the Motor City picnic.

(Bo Hanley Photo)

event began as the afterglow to the 1974 ATOS Convention when over 1000 conventioners roamed her four decks, or listened to a multitude of organists perform at an electronic organ in the ballroom.

in our area in recent months, however, may have diluted our expected audience.

The featured organist for our Second Sunday program at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor in July



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was Fr. Jim Miller. Greg Yassick was at the console of the 3/13 Barton for our August presentation there.

Tony O'Brien appeared at the 3/16 Barton for our Fourth Sunday offering at the Royal Oak Theatre in July. In August, Virginia Gedz did the honors at the Royal Oak console.



The 78-year-old excursion steamer Columbia. Motor City's seventh annual private charter cruise began as the 1974 convention afterglow.

Committees are now being formed and the many preliminary details are being worked out in preparation for the 1982 ATOS Convention in Detroit.

Dennis James will be appearing at the Michigan Theatre (Ann Arbor) on October 24th and at the Royal Oak Theatre on October 25th. Artists scheduled for the Redford Theatre in late fall are Carol Jones on November 8th and John Muri on December 6th.

DON LOCKWOOD

OHIO VALLEY

A dinner meeting at Shady Nook with its four-manual white console (the slave console that Jesse Crawford's wife played) and pipes from the WLW *Moon River* organ is always a treat. The May 19th meeting of the chapter held there was especially so. We had the whole restaurant to ourselves as Dennis Werkmeister, co-owner and fellow member, opened up on Monday just for us. Carl Creager, staff organist there, is an excellent musician and showman

and of course many members did their thing at open console.

On May 27th there was a retirement party for our organ crew chairman, Tote Pratt. Tote only retired from the General Electric Co., not from his pipe organ activities, the love of his life. He'll have more time to write articles for this magazine. The organ crew works two days a week now under his capable direction. A "This Is Your Life" program was the highlight featuring Jack Strader as M.C. and Jack Doll, Jr. at the organ. Refreshments were served on stage. Eddie Osborn played as did Jack Tarr who came all the way from his new home in Bradenton, Fla., for the happy occasion.

Our annual meeting was held June 25th aboard the Betty Blake, a river boat without a calliope, but serving enticing cuisine. The election of officers was held and we now have a new chairman, Gordon Cornell.

That gave us a good reason to have another meeting on August 12th at Emery to pay tribute to Hubert Shearin, our chairman for the last seven years. This period saw our Wurlitzer installed and playing in Emery Theatre. The era meant a lot of hard work for Hubert negotiating contracts with the University of Cincinnati, the owner of Emery. During this time he saw to the promotion of concerts and record albums on our Wurlitzer. Two years of it were spent in developing our classic movie operation. He did such a fine job we wouldn't let him quit, but in all fairness we finally stopped drafting him. To show appreciation our members presented him with an ample handsome attache case. He says, "It's already in use, loaded with the usual assortment of company and ATOS matters that travel back and forth from my office to our apartment."

His Wurlitzer widow, Ruth, received an exquisite piece of Waterford glass for her support and help to Hubert and the chapter. Hubert is still on the board of the chapter and serves as liaison officer with the University of Cincinnati, our landlord. The meeting also featured three of our members, Jane McBride, Grace Heitkamper and Charlie Wilhelm in a cameo program after which there was the usual open console.

Our classic movie program, which we operate every weekend at Emery, is now in its third year. Recently we screened the original silent version of *Ben-Hur* starring Ramon Navarro and Francis X. Bushman. It gave two of our staff organists, Bubbles Libben and Jack Doll, a good workout. Each played well, yet were entirely different in their choice of material. The print was superb and it ran beautifully through our projectors. Unfortunately there aren't very many silents of this quality available. During the past months we have added old news reels to our regular movie bill. Our patrons enjoy these nostalgic flashbacks of history, sports and more. We have added Claire Lawrence, Van Jones and Gene Wilson to our staff of organists.

We now have a piano playable from our console but it doesn't project sufficiently from the solo chamber so we are moving it to a lift in the orchestra pit. The piano is another gift from Mr. and Mrs. Jack Strader.

As far as we know, the Emery organ has another first-of-its kind. A switch has been placed above the trem tabs so that an organist can choose a fast or slow trem speed for the Solo Tibia. This should eliminate the tedious chore of changing the tremulant speed on the Solo Tibia for visiting organists.

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OREGON

Because of the National ATOS Convention, no local chapter meeting was scheduled for July. However, on August 10th we were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Harms for a picnic at their home in Aloha.

This event had something for everybody! Outside: Badminton, horseshoes, sauna, hot tub, barbecue with loads of fine food and ice cream. Inside: The three-manual Conn with two large Leslies and eight sets of electronic pipes! This organ has a floating division of tuned

percussions which can be preselected and then instantly coupled to any manual as desired. After a very competent demonstration by our host, it was open console with the bench occupied all afternoon.

Bob and Naomi Harms put in a great deal of work and expense to provide all this for our chapter. We very much appreciate their hospitality and thank them for a wonderful Sunday afternoon.

BUD ABEL



Oregon members during the picnic at Bob Harms. That's "Barbecuing Bob" at the grill. (Claude V. Neuffer Photo)



Bob Harms at his Conn, with a little assistance from son Mathew, during the Oregon Chapter picnic. (Claude V. Neuffer Photo)

PIEDMONT

Piedmont's latest accomplishment: a 3/12 Wurlitzer installed in the War Memorial Gymnasium at Elon College. Originally installed in the Paramount, Charlottesville, Virginia, the organ has undergone extensive renovation after a 15-year wait in storage. For the future, a



Late night tuning and playing session. Piedmont's Chet Rataski likes playing them as much as he likes tuning them!

solid-state combination system is on order and a self-player action is being designed and built by Piedmont's own Buddy Boyd. The new installation is already known to such theatre greats as Searle Wright and Lee Erwin. We're looking forward to a great future!



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Fr. Jim Miller, a guest from the Detroit area, played the Haller Lake chapter organ.



Mrs. Weygand entertains at the Haller Lake Club House. Now retired, she was with the St. Louis Symphony for 25 years.

PUGET SOUND

During the August meeting at the Haller Lake Club House, Chairman Thelma Barclay reported on the London convention, which ten of our members attended. Their comments were: great music from all the different organs, the great people whom they met, T.L.C. of the bus monitors and the uniformed ladies of the hospitality committee were the greatest. Even though the convention lasted eight days, there was not a dull moment. Words can not express proper appreciation.

Program Chairman Dick Schrum introduced those who were to play at the chapter 3/7 Wurlitzer/Marr & Colton. Dick Dickerson led off with oldies and Ken Gallwey played a variety of selections. Don Myers was next, to add more diversity, and Eddie Zollman, Sr. continued with some medleys.

A special surprise guest was Mrs. Weygand, who played the harp for

25 years with the St. Louis Symphony, taught harp for many years and is now retired. She had with her a beautiful golden harp and played many favorites.

Another surprise was the appearance of Fr. Jim Miller of Fenton, Michigan, who was visiting in the area. He is an ATOS member, from the Motor City and Wolverine chapters as well as the Detroit Theater Organ Club. His quick wit and humor were a spark that preceded excellent playing. Then his friend, Don Jenks, also a member of the Detroit organizations, stepped to the console. He was superb.

An auction then followed with Ken Gallwey wielding the gavel. He auctioned off items that netted us a sizeable amount toward the chapter project, the Paramount Theatre organ that will be available for our 1981 convention.

Several chapter members, who are also members of the Bremerton Or-

gan Club, took a boat across Puget Sound to hear a program by Wendal Abernathy. President Robert Montgomery introduced Mr. Abernathy who proceeded to play tunes of the 1920-1930 era using every registration that the pipe organ was capable of. After intermission, Mr. Abernathy showed slides he had prepared from pictures taken from early school days. Since he had been a resident of Bremerton all through school, many in the audience were identified. This was like a happy family gathering.

The organ, whose console is from a theatre in Walla Walla, is a combination of Robert Morton, Kimball and Wurlitzer, and was once owned by the late Don Adamson. (See story in the June-July, 1977 issue of THE-ATRE ORGAN.) Today the organ is used for their many productions which are well-attended. John Nafie is the organist, Margaret Hill plays the piano and Jim Herron is heard



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on the drums.

In attendance at the Bremerton concert was Lew Wells, the technician during the two years it took to reassemble this organ in its present location. He is a former employee of Balcom and Vaughan and one of the few remaining old-time organists in our area.

Lew Wells and John Nafie presented the opening concert, on Octo-



Wendal Abernathy, a native of Bremerton, at the Robert Morton/Kimball/Wurlitzer.

ber 22, 1978, and what a thrilling experience it must have been.

Lew played at the Apollo and Embassy theatres as well as the Cherrio Theatre on Queen Anne Hill, all in Seattle, and was once a stage manager at the now-demolished Seattle Orpheum Theatre. It was good to see Lew and his wife, Irma, and we appreciate their continued participation and interest.

We wish the people involved with the Bremerton Community Theatre continued success with their future organ presentations.

THELMA R. SMITH

SOONER STATE

In case anyone missed the news, Oklahoma had a *hot* summer! Undaunted, however, members of the chapter gathered at Harvey Young's "Island" on the hottest day of July for our annual picnic. Afterwards we adjourned to his air-conditioned house for music on his Conn 652, performed by our playing members as open console. Lee Smith surprised us with drum accompaniment on the set of traps which graced a corner of the room — shades of his days in his high school and college marching bands!

August rolled around too hot to even think of having a meeting — but some of our members attended a meeting of the Tulsa Organ Club the week before ours would have been due, and decided we should get together after all. Harvey offered his "Island" once again, though we decided to do without the elaborate picnic we'd enjoyed the month before. Once again we adjourned to his home for impromptu music on the Conn 652, and persuaded Lee Smith to give us a repeat performance on the drums. Harvey is a gracious host and we more than appreciate his hospitality on such short notice.

We have been investigating a "very firm possibility" of a home for our club-owned 3/10 Robert Morton. Nothing is definite as of this writing, but the offer is a good one, and the instrument has been in storage for over two years. There are details to be worked out but we are quite excited about the opportunity to finally bring our beast to life again!

Meanwhile, work on Bob and Betty Weddle's Robert Morton is progressing. We have been restoring a Wurlitzer switch stack with them, complete with releathering pouches

and listening to Bill Roberts' x-rated comments about taking it apart in the first place and doing the job without breaking any of the wires.

The installation of the writer's 2/6 Wurlitzer is being temporarily held up by a house remodeling project, but an architect has agreed that it's quite a challenge to redesign a house around a theatre pipe organ. We hope to begin building before too long.

DOROTHY SMITH

SOUTH EAST TEXAS

Because of the success of the Al Sacker Memorial Concert in March, additional theatre organ concerts are planned for the Jefferson Theatre on November 13th and on March 26th next year. These concerts will be underwritten by the South East Texas Arts Council, which paid the entire cost of the March concert.

Reconditioning of the Jefferson Theatre by the Jefferson Theatre Preservation Society is under way.

IRA M. WILLIAMSON

VALLEY OF THE SUN

Things slow down a lot during the hot summer months in the Valley of the Sun, but that doesn't mean that we stop our ATOS activities entirely. Though we're unable to work in the Phoenix College Auditorium on the college Wurlitzer, work continues in members' homes on such things as releathering.

In July, we held a social meeting at the Phoenix Organ Stop restaurant. A special treat of the afternoon was the chance to have open console at the Wurlitzer there.

August 10th found us at the Mesa Organ Stop. After enjoying the good food the restaurant has to offer, we heard Ron Rhode at the organ. Ron gave us a preview of some of the music he will be playing in future con-

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certs. Upcoming events for the remainder of the year were announced, then several members participated in open console.

MADELINE LIVOLSI

WESTERN RESERVE

On May 31st, 34 of our members joined a group from Pittsburgh to visit the Rochester Theater Organ Society for a delightful tour of their organs. The First Universalist Church contained a 1908 14-rank Hope-Jones. This organ was the beginning of the horseshoe console, electro-pneumatic pistons, and the Hope-Jones system of unification. We were also treated to open console on the famous RTOS 4/22 Wurlitzer after a performance by Fred Packard, which included George Wright's arrangement of "Dancing Tambourine" and the ever-popular "Evergreen." A second concert on their 3/8 Wurlitzer was provided by Elmira, New York's David Peckham, who played many favorites including "Strike Up The Band" and Bach's "Jig Fugue."

On June 22nd, Paul Havenstein of a Pontiac (Michigan) pizza house, entertained our group at the 3/6 Austin in the Medina (Oh.) County Administration Building. This is one of only ten theatre organs built by Austin. From Paul's opening "Great Day" through standards including "Music Box Dancer" and "Fly Me to the Moon," we were enthralled at the music which could be provided by six ranks.

Our July 20th open house consisted of open console at our 3/13 Wurlitzer and a tour of three nearby theatres. The Palace Theatre was a spectacle to behold with its 14 types of marble, 154 crystal chandeliers and its brass ornamentation. The State Theatre, anticipated home of



Paul Havenstein at the 3/6 Austin in the Medina (Ohio) County Administration Building.

the Cleveland Opera and Ballet, now under restoration, is to be completed in the fall of 1981. Its 350-foot long lobby is the largest in the United States and is adorned by solid walnut pillars and fine murals which were painted by the same artist in 60 days. The Ohio Theatre (not to be confused with its Columbus, Ohio, namesake) was nearly destroyed by fire and vandalism. Our tour there was brief; the sight pulled too many heartstrings.

Preparations are now underway for our October 25th Keith Chapman concert. We are having Ed Fisher, a prominent announcer at radio station WQAL narrate an Alan

Sherman version of *Peter and the Wolf*, *Peter and the Commissar* with Keith's accompaniment.

JIM SHEPHERD

WOLVERINE

Once again this year, the Wolverines celebrated summer with a July picnic at the home of Don and Shirley Jenks in Brighton. About 70 members and guests enjoyed a picnic lunch, socialized, and played or just listened to the Rodgers 33-E.

The Rodgers organ is installed in the living room which has a cathedral ceiling. The tone cabinets are located behind a free-standing brick



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- August 27 — Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
- September 9 — Michigan Theatre, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- 14 — Hinsdale Theatre, Hinsdale, Illinois
- 27 — I.U. Auditorium, Bloomington, Indiana
- October 9 — Elco Theatre, Elkhart, Indiana
- 24 — Michigan Theatre, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- 25 — Royal Oak Theatre, Royal Oak, Michigan
- 29 — Taylor University, Upland, Indiana
- 30 — I.U. Auditorium, Bloomington, Indiana
- 31 — Ohio Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
- November 3-17 — European Tour
- 29 — I.U. Auditorium, Bloomington, Indiana
- 30 — ATOS REGIONAL CONVENTION, Chicago Theatre, Chicago, Illinois
- December 2 — Keyboard Concerts, Laguna Hills, California
- 6 — California Theatre, San Diego, California
- 14 — Golden Bear Playhouse, Sacramento, California

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Don and Shirley Jenks at the console of their Rodgers 33E theatre organ. (Ed Corey Photo)



Australian organist Tony Fenelon at the Rodgers 33E in the home of Don and Shirley Jenks in Brighton, Michigan. (Ed Corey Photo)



Staff organist Paul Havenstein at the 3/21 Barton hybrid in the Organ Grinder's Pizza & Pipes in Pontiac, Michigan. (Ed Corey Photo)

fireplace which acts as a mixing area to blend the various sounds.

A surprise visitor during the afternoon was Australian organist Tony Fenelon, who had played the night before at the Senate Theater for the Detroit Theater Organ Club. Tony favored us with several selections at the Rodgers.

Our August meeting was another special event as long-time Wolveriners, Gary Montgomery, H.C. Scott and Roger Mumbrue invited us to join them at their Organ Grinder's Pizza & Pipes in Pontiac.

Staff organist Paul Havenstein presented a concert at the 3/21 Bar-

ton hybrid instrument. The organ was originally a 3/10 Barton installed in the Birmingham Theatre and was one of a trio of such instruments in the Detroit area; the other two are still installed in their original theatres, the Redford and the Royal Oak.

Paul Havenstein is a relative newcomer to the world of professional theatre organists. A native of New Jersey, he studied classical organ for 17 years and is a graduate of Westminster Choir College. Paul has been the assistant curator of organs at Radio City Music Hall and has been heard in concert at the Riviera The-

atre. He will perform in the near future at the Senate Theater for the Detroit Theater Organ Club.

One of the outstanding features of a theatre pipe organ is its flexibility, especially under the command of a capable artist. Paul very ably demonstrated that the Organ Grinder's Barton is very much suited to the tender ballad as well as to the type of music necessary to entertain a loud and boisterous "pizza" crowd.

The Wolverine Chapter passed a milestone this past summer. We now have over 100 paid memberships in the chapter.

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