

Reports of Charter Meetings

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Irving Heruth of Grand Rapids, Michigan, describes as "a great success" the first meeting of his newly-formed Theatre Organ Club held Sunday, April 24, at the Michigan Theatre in Muskegan, Michigan. The organ is a 3m/Sr Barton and was reconditioned by members of the Club before the organization was formed. Ted De Vlieger, a professional organist since the age of 14, played the newly restored organ for club members. Since that meeting, the group met at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit and Irv writes that still another meeting is scheduled in a private home of the Wurlitzer family located at a Roller Rink in Detroit. Comments Irv in his letter:

"Of course a lot of the people think that I'm a bit crazy, but I don't let it bother me. In fact, a good share of them haven't the slightest idea as to what a theatre organ is.

"I think in time a share of them will have a clear knowledge and understanding of the theatre organ. At present, we are trying to make arrangements with a local theatre for the use of an organ. That will enable more people from Grand Rapids to be present at our next meeting."

We are delighted with the way organophiles have responded to Mr. Heruth's call, and wish them continued success. Good going, Irvin, and we are confident that your club will expand with leaps and bounds.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Pictured at right is a group of theatre organ enthusiasts in the Seattle, Washington area which—even before the birth of A.T.O.E.—has been assembling from time to time at the residence theatre organ consoles of the various individuals for happy hours of theatre organ music and the exchange of organ lore.

When these people learned that Dr. Mel Doner was coming to Seattle last February 3, they cancelled all other social plans and assembled at the basement studio of Bob Jones to greet Mel and learn more about the organization of A.T.O.E. As usual, when these TO lovers get together, an extremely interesting session is enjoyed by all. Nine of these fourteen people are fortunate in having their own theatre organs set up at home. Undoubtedly, this is one of the first groups to assemble a chapter of organ enthusiasts in the United States.

THE TRACKER

DENVER, COLORADO

JOEL KRAMER and BOB CASTLE continue their excellent presentation of the dual-console, 4m/20r *Wurlitzer* in the Paramount Theatre. After many years of silence, this organ was put back into action three years ago. Its continued daily use and the hearty applause for each interlude is proof that the present generation appreciates the theatre organ as did past generations. MAGGIE MELODY, JACK MALMSTEN, and LARRY McNEAR have been at the console of the 3m/15r *Wurlitzer* in the Denver Theatre at various times during this year. The organ is undergoing extensive repairs with Mr. Roberts, the original installer, giving it his expert attention. The 4m/17r *Robert-Morton* in the Tabor Theatre, installed in 1921, has been sold and is being dismantled. Except for the console, this organ is still in very good condition. The late-model 2m/6r *Robert-Morton* in the Oriental Theatre is being removed. Parts of this organ are being used in a church installation locally. The 2m/18r *Wurlitzer* in the Orpheum Theatre is soon to be removed. The organ, consisting of two iden-



Standing (l to r): Dan Adamson, Mrs. Glenn White, Sr., Glenn White, Jr., Bob Coombs, Dean Botteker, Ted Leamy, Glenn White, Sr. Seated on Console Bench: Catherine Siderius, Bottom Row (l to r): Jim Collier, Ken Mayberry, Bob Jones, William Bunch, George Cole, Alden Bice

tical nine-rank *Wurlitzers*, was badly damaged in the past by water. It has not been playable for several years. The famous *Wurlitzer* in the Denver Civic Auditorium installed in 1917 at a cost of \$85,000 is now being removed and rebuilt. This 4m/35r organ is to be reinstalled in the theatre section of the soon-to-be renovated auditorium. Fred H. Muenier, local organ man who originally installed the organ, now supervises its removal. This instrument which contains three sets of 32' Diaphones is to go back in its entirety with the exception of some of the sound effects. It has been suggested that additional stops be added to make the organ suitable for "playing classical music and orchestral accompaniment." The early announcements for remodeling the auditorium suggested that the organ be junked. Public indignation prompted the formation of an advisory committee to the mayor who recommended that the Hope-Jones Unit Orchestra be saved and placed in the theatre proper where it could be used and heard to greater advantage. Mr. Muenier stated that the new installation will be "50 per cent more effective since the remodeled auditorium will not muffle its tones." All pipe organ lovers will agree with me that the citizens of Denver are wise in their decision to demand the retention of this venerable instrument.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

STAN KANN is doing "three a day" at the console of magnificent 4m/36r *Wurlitzer* in the Fox Theatre. This is the only one of the five thirty-six rank *Wurlitzers* now getting a daily workout. All credit for the rehabilitation of this majestic organ must go to Stan who undertook the tremendous task of putting it back in playing condition after many years of silence. If preparing and presenting programs for his theatre audience was not enough, Stan entertains nightly at a restaurant called "Musial's and Biggie's," is regularly heard over KSD and KSD-TV, and is now rebuilding the recently acquired 3m/14r *Wurlitzer* from Loew's Theatre for installation in a restaurant. At home on unit, straight, or electric organs, Stan's ability makes a great asset to the city of St. Louis.

—Roy Gorish