



the letters to the editors

Letters to the Editor concerning all aspects of the theatre organ hobby are encouraged. Send them to the editor concerned. Unless it's stated clearly on the letter "not for publication," the editors feel free to reproduce it, in whole or part.

Address:

Robert M. Gilbert
Editor
3448 Cowper Court
Palo Alto, Calif. 94306

Dear Sir:

In the report on the Convention, Second Day, July 2, 1981, you said Don French played the Oriental Theatre Wurlitzer for the 1966 Convention.

For all the new members in ATOS, the 1966 Convention in Portland was ATOE, not ATOS. Mildred Alexander and Scott Gillespie both played at the Oriental, not Don French. I'm sure Dennis Hedberg will verify this.

Yours,
Virgil Purdue

Magazine problems?

If you are not receiving your magazines, write to:
ATOS Membership Secretary
4455 LBJ Freeway, Suite 604
Dallas, Texas 75234

For back issues and binders, write to:
ATOS Circulation Department
1393 Don Carlos Court
Chula Vista, California 92010

Dear Editor:

I have become involved with a small project on which I need help from some reader of THEATRE ORGAN. I am rebuilding a small Melodeon, which is similar to an old reed organ. It is called an "Improved Melodeon," serial number 21738, manufactured by Prince and Company, patented December 26, 1846. The instrument is complete and in beautiful condition except for one missing reed, low F# on a 49-note keyboard. If anyone can help me find this part I will be very grateful and appreciative. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
David B. Marshall
50 Villa Road
Springfield, Ohio 45503

Dear Editor:

Regarding Wolfgang Schaa's letter to the editor in the Aug./Sept./Oct. issue: In 1971 I checked out the Apollo Theatre, at Gumpendorferstrasse, 63, Vienna, when I was a student at the University of Vienna, Post-Graduate School of Medicine. The Christie organ was installed in 1929 when the Apollo re-opened as a film theatre September 11, 1929. Professor George Tootell of London, England, opened the organ. The pipe-work was installed over the proscenium.

Viennese theatre organist Professor Karl Eisele presided at the two-manual console for eleven years. His father was the manager of the early Apollo Variety Theatre built in 1903. It opened September 1, 1904 with a seating capacity of 2000, and many famous vaudevillians appeared on its stage, including Charlie Chaplin in a droll sketch "An Evening in an American Tingle-Tangle," and Mata Hari, who was billed as an exotic dancer and was later famous as a World War I spy.

After World War I the Apollo was remodeled as a Kino-Theatre seating 1500, and the English Christie of seven or eight ranks was installed. In 1949 the Apollo was again remodeled and the seating capacity reduced to 1386. The organ console was disconnected and placed in the basement where it remained until 1962. The organ was ultimately sold and removed from the theatre in 1962. Its whereabouts are unknown.

Yours sincerely,
Edward J. Mullins, O.M.D. □



27th Annual
ATOS
Convention
• • •
DETROIT
July 4 thru 10, 1982

Closing Chord

Edward Stewart Naschke, 67, of Sacramento, California, died on September 30, 1981. He was a member of Sierra Chapter of ATOS, of the Sierra Camera Club, and of the Photographic Society of America. He was also an amateur radio operator (W6DGL) and a railroad buff.

"Stu" was a tireless worker for spreading the word about theatre pipe organs. After his retirement from service as a Communications Engineer with the State of California he devoted countless hours to the presentation of programs on Sierra Chapter's *George A. Seaver Memorial Theatre Pipe Organ*. He helped to tune the organ the day before he died, in preparation for its final concert in its California State Fair location. He was also an outstanding amateur photographer.

"Contributions may be made to the Clyde Derby Memorial Organ Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 491, Carmichael, California 95608." The quote is taken from the obituary in the local press as the wish of Mr. Naschke's wife Helen and his family. The Fund is an activity of Sierra Chapter to provide scholarships for aspiring young organists, as a memorial to one of the founders of the Chapter.

Marshall Robert Flierl, a longtime member of ATOS, died of cancer on June 10, 1981, in Cape Coral, Florida. Bob was interested in organ music all his life, and he and his wife Jeanne attended many National Conventions. They were hosts to many nationally-known organists in their home. Bob served a year as president of the former Niagara Frontier Chapter. □