

American Theatre Organ Society



In the May/June 1975 issue of *THEATRE ORGAN* there was an interesting article concerning our Archives/Library. Doc Abernethy, then president of ATOS, had collated material previously collected and negotiated with Elon College in North Carolina to house the collection. For many reasons, mainly financial, this arrangement never really got off the ground. The college needed the space, we had no money for a librarian or archivist, so down through the years our historical memorabilia has been packed in boxes and stored in a basement room. Naturally, many members were perturbed. Your present board has been trying for the past two years to solve the problem.

I am pleased to announce that we have decided on a temporary home for our collection. It is being moved to our corporate headquarters in Chula Vista, California, where it will be placed in fireproof storage and be catalogued under the direction of Vern Bickel, who so ably handles our Back Issues. As soon as this can be accomplished, the material will be available for use by our members. At present, we have no idea what the collection contains.

Of course, this is only a temporary arrangement, but it is a step forward, and we will continue to search for a permanent home. Many of you have a wealth of material related to theatre organs which should be in our library for the use of future generations, and we hope you will begin again to endow ATOS with these precious possessions. I assure you they will be gratefully received and lovingly cared for.

Our appreciation goes to Eugene Davis, a past chairman of LATOS, who recently gave to the library copies of original blueprints of Robert-Morton organs.

Besides trying to get ATOS running in a more professional manner, the Archives/Library has been one of my main concerns during my term as your president. Small gifts have been made toward achieving this goal, but we will need much more before we can fulfill your wishes. The ideal situation would be a permanent location that could house not only our collection, but also serve as our National Headquarters. Of course, I can dream further and hope that an executive director could be appointed to coordinate and guide the work of all the willing volunteers who are so necessary to the operation of our Society. We've managed to keep theatre organ alive and safe through the years and now — have you noticed how many theatres are being refurbished? The pendulum is swinging back, so let's be ready for it.

I am well aware that this kind of a goal takes much financial backing and proper planning, but if we move slowly and steadily, we can do it. I somehow have a feeling my dream is shared by many of you. If so, please let me hear from you.

See you in San Francisco.

Lois F. Segur, President

