

Closing Chord

Maurice C. Adamson of Sheridan, Oregon, passed away on April 9. A native Oregonian, Maurice owned and operated the Adamson's Sheridan Funeral Home. Although he never learned to play, Maurice was a lifelong supporter of the theatre organ and belonged to both Oregon and London Chapters of ATOS.

Maurice and his wife, Nina, traveled to England several times to participate in theatre organ activities, and they attended the 1980 National Convention there. They were also part of the group that traveled to Australia and New Zealand in 1981 to see and hear the organs in that part of the world.



Maurice C. Adamson.

In the summer of 1981, Maurice and Nina entertained a group of ATOS members from England who were here for the 1981 Convention in Seattle (see THEATRE ORGAN, March/April 1982). They also hosted Oregon Chapter's picnic that year and Maurice baked a marble cake for the group which was no less than spectacular.

Maurice's most recent project has been the preservation of the 2/8 Wurlitzer in Gill Coliseum on the campus of Oregon State University in Corvallis. Both Nina and Maurice are alumni of OSU, and Nina, herself an organist and teacher, intends to continue this project.

Maurice is survived by his wife, a daughter, Diane Bigby, a son, Val, and four grandchildren. His good nature and warm personality will be missed by his friends on both continents.

GRACE E. MCGINNIS

Elizabeth Hill Palmer of Fairport, New York, died on February 18 at the age of 88.

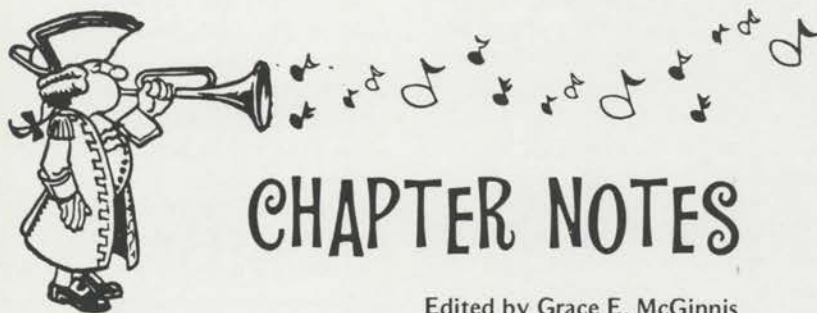
She learned to play the organ and piano at an early age. In order to earn money for her college education, she played background music for silent movies in a Fairport theatre. Majoring in music at Syracuse University, she completed the four-year course in three years.

Though trained as a theatre organist, marriage and social views stopped her from pursuing a career in this field. However, she played the organ

for the Masonic Temple, and served as president of the Hammond Organ Society of Rochester. She taught business subjects in Rochester's Franklin High School for 25 years.

She is survived by two sons and two grandchildren.

Arthur Hinett, prominent theatre organist in the '20s and '30s, died February 14 at the age of 76 after a period of ill health. He was organist at the Lansdowne Theatre from 1927 to 1930. During the '30s he was music director at station KYW in Philadelphia, where he used a Hammond organ and a string ensemble for a very popular program. Hinett was the first organist for TV commercials in the area. At various times he was organist at several large central city theatres in Philadelphia. □



Edited by Grace E. McGinnis

ALABAMA Birmingham 205/979-8132 or 205/785-4864

The change in appearance of the city of Birmingham is an uplifting experience as we, in this decade, can watch the metamorphosis from the old to the new, from the development of vision and foresight to the actual being. The beginning of Birmingham Green on Twentieth Street is spreading through Nineteenth and Eighteenth Streets, and from First Avenue through Fourth Avenue. The old concept of concrete and steel is being replaced by flowers and plants, and where trolley cars used to travel there will be soil and trees. The harshness of strict business in the atmosphere can be replaced by a more relaxed and growing feeling, but there are some things that we need to keep, such as the memories of the pleasant things in life that we have experienced. The

Alabama Theatre, which is on the National Register, is one of these things. Many memories were born in this old building in the past, and will be in the future. With people who are interested in theatres and theatre organs, such as the Alabama Chapter of the ATOS, these things will continue. Electric panels may be changed for more modern types, but the lights will still be as bright as they were in our memories.

Technically speaking, "Big Bertha," our Mighty Wurlitzer in the Alabama Theatre, has had all but three of her regulators completely reworked with new leather. Much of the leather has been replaced on the tremulants, and much of the air piping has been replaced. The work crew headed by Larry Donaldson, Ola Fee and Freeman Andress has been working every weekend. Ola has also been working much of the time between. As everyone knows, the work crews