

Report of Chapter Meetings

Eastern Chapter

THE FIRST EASTERN MEETING was held July 31, 1955 at Bethlehem, Pa. The program opened at the College Theatre at 11:00 a.m. with LeRoy Lewis of Bethlehem at the console for half an hour. At this time there was a short speech of welcome and introductions by Bill Moyer of Creamery, Pa. Letters from President Dick Simonton and Editor Mel Doner were read to the group of seventeen people. At 11:45 LeRoy Lewis spoke briefly on the history and resources of the organ which is a 3-13 Moller built in 1928. It was used about three years and then stood idle until this year when Mr. Lewis together with George MacNeal, Ted Campbell, and John Riedel, took an interest in it and restored it. They have made many mechanical improvements, tuned it, refinished the console in white and gold, installed a small row of footlights on the lift and have even put a rose spotlight in the ceiling.

Mr. Lewis closed his talk with a demonstration of the various units, percussions, and traps. It was also announced that the theatre was to begin regular use of the organ on August 17th. It will be played by Mr. Lewis from 6:30 to 7:00 and 9:00 to 9:10 each night.

At 12:00 the organ was available to the group for anyone to try his hand. At 1:00 a group photo was taken at the console and the meeting was adjourned (because of a 2:00 matinee) to be resumed at the home of Mr. & Mrs. John Riedel near Bethlehem.

At about 2:00 the group reassembled at the Riedel's to enjoy punch and sandwiches and to discuss the formation of the Chapter. The following decisions were made: (1) Meetings will be held every 3 months. (2) The size and the name of the chapter will be decided later. (3) Officers will be elected at the next meeting. (4) Dues will be established when a treasurer is elected. (5) The next meeting will be held at the home of Solon Marburger (4m Wurlitzer), Birdsboro, Pa. on a Sunday afternoon at 1:30 in about 3 months (date to be decided later).

The tapes recorded by Dick Hiesler in the morning session at the theater were played back and enjoyed again. We next had the rare opportunity of hearing a Baldwin, a Hammond, and a Novachord all of which are installed in the Riedel's living room. Various selections were requested and all were ably handled by LeRoy Lewis.

The afternoon was completed by an inspection of the Riedel's organ chamber in which a three-manual Wurlitzer is under construction. This organ is being removed from the Strand Theater in York, Pa.

Second Meeting

The second quarterly meeting of the Eastern Chapter of the ATOE was held October 30, 1955 at the home of Solon Marburger, Birdsboro, Pa. Mr. Marburger has a 4m/15r unit organ; console—Morton, pipework—about half Morton and half Wurlitzer. The console is in one corner of the living room and a white and gold grand piano in the other corner. Between the two are the shutters to the main chamber which is a wing added to the house. Behind the console is an echo chamber and the relay room.

Mr. Marburger opened the program with a demonstration of the various units and a few selections. LeRoy Lewis, organist of the College Theater, Bethlehem, followed with a short recital. An election of chapter officers was held and the following were elected:

President: Willoughby W. Moyer, Jr., Creamery, Pa.

V. Pres.: Rev. George MacNeal, Allentown, Pa.

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Edythe Riedel, Bethlehem, Pa.

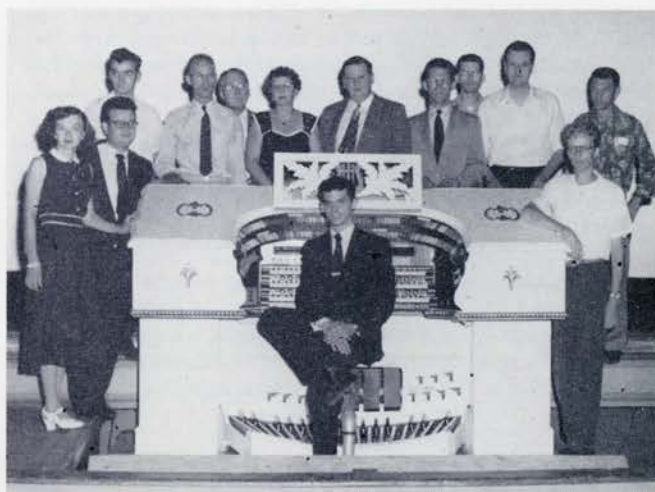
Program Chairman: LeRoy Lewis, Bethlehem, Pa.

Dues were established at \$2.00 per year. Some discussion was held on possible program material and several members mentioned the fact that they had access to some very interesting organs, so future programs look promising.

The organ was then made available for anyone who wished to try it, as many did. Tape recordings were made by Dick Hiesler. Twenty-two members and one guest were present; about five were unable to attend. Those present were: Reginald Watson, Manhasset, L. I.; Wainwright Schmidt, Merriek, L. I.; LeRoy Lewis, Mr. & Mrs. John Riedel, Dr. Sell, Rev. George MacNeal, and Walter Bartholomew, Bethlehem, Pa.; Mr. & Mrs. Solon Marburger and George Hetrick, Birdsboro, Pa.; Mr. & Mrs. Eldon Leiding, New Ringold, Pa.; Charles F. Wildonger, Port Clinton, Pa.; Mr. & Mrs. G. Daniel Rohrbach, Shillington, Pa.; Robert Reider, Reading, Pa.; Ted Campbell, Hackettstown, N. J.; George Orr, Doylestown, Pa.; Dick & Mark Hiesler, Philadelphia, Pa.; Bill Moyer, Creamery, Pa.; George Merriken, Silver Spring, Md.; and the guest, Ralph Evans.

It is interesting and encouraging to note that we have attracted theater organ people from Long Island to Maryland. We were especially pleased to have with us Reginald Watson, designer of organs here and abroad. He is probably best known to us as the designer of the BBC organ, built by Moller originally for Reginald Foort.

*William Moyer, Jr.
Creamery, Pa.*



From l. to r.—Ann Moyer, George MacNeal, Ted Campbell, Dick Hiesler, Dr. & Mrs. Sell, John Riedel, Bud Hiesler, George Orr, Robert Rieder, Solon Marburger, Bill Moyer. Seated, LeRoy Lewis