

News, Views, and Previews

BILL BUNCH, who left Seattle last year to accept a position with Aeolian-Skinner, has been appointed to Shop Superintendent at A-Skinner plant. Congratulations! When Bill sits at a Unit Organ it pays to listen. . . . Thanks for this piece of good news; BOB JONES of Edmonds, Washington, joined the Seattle Musicians' Union last May (Local 76) to do occasional relief work at two skating rinks in the area. He enjoyed the 3m/12r Wurlitzer at the Rolladium where he filled in for Mahon Tullis during the latter's vacation. "I find the work very interesting and relaxing," comments Bob, "even after a five hour run for two sessions." . . . Anyone have the specs on the Chicago Wurlitzer store organ that Jesse Crawford used for his early Victor recordings? . . . Received a very nice letter from VENIDA JONES (remember her superlative work on the KMOX studio 4m Kilgen back in the good old days?) who states that she enjoyed the San Francisco Fox organ and meeting Everett Nourse during her vacation in the big city. Venida now resides in Chicago. . . . Miss EUNICE KANEY of Phoenix, Arizona thanks the Editor for sending her a tape of Crawford's Victor recording of "Hawaiian Sandman" and "I love to hear you singing" adding that this was a great favorite of her family and a holiday get-together would never be complete unless this music could be played "over and over again." . . . The organ business is good out on the West Coast according to JUDD WALTON. Another Fox organ, a six-rank Robert Morton down in Visalia has been sold, the seventh to go in recent months. . . . BEN HALL of New York writes that the Wurlitzer at Loew's Richmond has been completely rebuilt during the past year by Harold Warner, including new keyboards from Loew's Norfolk and a pedal clavier from REGGIE WATSON, origin unknown at present. . . . EDDIE WEAVER is still playing three shows a day there (twenty years at the same stand) and has an enormous following. "They really sing in Richmond," comments Ben. "Eddie came out dressed in a sailor suit (to match the movie "Away All Boats") and the entire 8-minute program was devoted to nautical music. The *piece de resistance* was a solo on 'The Sailor's Horn-Pipe' during which Eddie actually did a dance on the pedals. It brought down the house." . . .

Recordings on residence organs are becoming increasingly popular. RICH VAUGHN started the ball rolling with his magnificent Wurlitzer, then BUD WITTENBURG featured Bill Thompson on his own Wurlitzer, and more recently JAY QUINBY's Moller by LEE ERWIN on Zodiac label, and BUDDY COLE's famous Robert Morton which Buddy has exploited on earlier discs, similarly the Wurlitzer in the home of PAUL PEASE which was recorded by DR. ORRIN HOSTETTER some years ago. . . . Speaking of residence organs, HAROLD LOGAN of Niagara Falls is interested in data on how to install a residence organ and wonders if the TIBIA can carry an article covering the subject. Your Editors have had this in mind and we'll see what we can come up with. . . . HELEN WESTBROOK, who did such a commendable job for Replica at the Oriental Theatre Wurlitzer in Chicago, was a big hit at the convention of the National League of American Penwomen for whom she played last April in Washington, D.C. Now a member of the Editorial Board, she has been asked to contribute articles to the National Penwomen's Magazine. Congratulations on this appointment. . . . ANN LEAF is working out on pipe organs again and "you ought to hear her—she's terrific" writes Ben Hall. Your Editor's daughter, spending a few days in New York en route to Winona, dropped up in the Rainbow Room at NBC, seated herself at the same table her "old man" sat at when in the big city last December, and introduced herself. Such are the thrills that we country folks give when we visit the choice nite spots. . . . Why didn't we think of the new page sooner? . . . Part One of the "Profile" on JESSE CRAWFORD will begin in the next edition of the TIBIA. . . . Your Editor was embarrassed when the jacket on REGGIE FOORT's latest recordings stated erroneously that he has every record ever made on a theatre organ. After 21 years of diligent searching he can not

claim this honor. . . . Let us know about organ broadcasts in your area, and schedules. Many of us would like to tune-in.

. . . A story on the Carter W. Gibbs Wurlitzer (he's a cousin of Lady Astor) will be coming up soon from Marvin Anderson, organ enthusiast and mechanic in Phoenix. . . . One of the old Möller theatre organs was recently sold in Oakland out of the Orpheum Theatre which is being torn down. . . . There are now two tavern installations of Wurlitzers in the San Francisco Bay Area: a late Model 165, formerly known as a "D" in Braito's 615 Club in Benicia, and a Model 216 in the "Lost Week-end" in San Francisco, just completed. The Benicia organist is DAVE QUINLAN who has been there for over a year and is immensely popular.

Report of Chapter Meetings

The Delaware Valley Chapter

THE FOURTH QUARTERLY MEETING of the former "Eastern Chapter" of A.T.O.E. was held Sunday, May 27th, 1956 at the College Theatre, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. You may recall that our first meeting was held in this theatre last July at which time the organ was put into daily use by the management. During this past year the organist, LeRoy Lewis, and the maintenance man, Ted Cambell, (both members of this Chapter) have made many improvements in the 3m/14r Möller.

They removed an ailing Clarinet and a tired Tuba and replaced them with two Tibias, one a Möller and the other a Morton. The resources are now as follows:

3 Tibias (each on separate tremolos), Orch. Flute, 2 Diapasons (phonon and horn), 4 strings, Post Horn, Trumpet, Kinura, and a Vox Humana with "cannisters" removed.

A new and very nice tremolo has been devised for the string section. Most of the percussions have been brought out of the chambers and installed in the orchestra pit and illuminated by special footlights. The over-all effect sounds and looks wonderful.

The program was called to order (with organ fanfare, of course) at 11:00 a.m. and after the Secretary-Treasurer's report, the subject of a more specific name than Eastern Chapter was suggested, but since only about half the members were present it was decided to ballot by mail. The next topic was the officers' term of office which has not yet been established. It was decided to vote on this by mail also.

The featured soloist for the day was to have been Bill Floyd, organist of the Paramount, New York, but he was detained at the last minute. Our program chairman, LeRoy Lewis played a number of selections including a beautiful demonstration of the Tibia chorus with "I Dream of Lilac Time." Leonard MacClain followed with a group of numbers from "Roberta" and "Showboat." George MacNeal and Mrs. MacClain took their turns at the console followed by encores by Mr. Lewis and Mr. MacClain. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00. (Bill Moyer).