



Leon Berry

BERNOUR, "KATIE"

Organist of the Colonial Theatre, the Strand Theatre and the Palace Theatre in Akron, Ohio.

BERNSTEIN, BEATRICE (Miss)

Organist of Loew's Elsmere Theatre in New York City in 1927.

BERNSTEIN, EDNA

Organist of the Central Park Theatre in Chicago, Illinois, in 1928.

BERRY, GRACE

Organist of the Isis Theatre in Boulder, Colorado, in 1925.

BERRY, LEON C.

A well-known recording artist, for many years organist of the Hub Rink, Chicago, Berry was born July 2, 1914, at Selma, Alabama. His early musical training was at the hands of local teachers. By the time he became a teenager the "talkies" had taken over, but Berry did play some organ solo spots on the 2/6 Robert-Morton organ in Selma's Wilby Theatre. His growing interest in pipe organs led him to become apprenticed to Kimball's southeastern representative where he learned many valuable lessons about organ building.

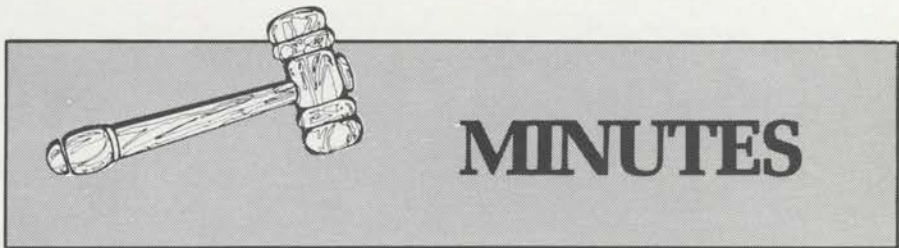
Berry moved to Chicago and studied for a number of years under Dr. Frank Van Dusen at the American Conservatory of Music. His musical education was interrupted by a four-year stint in the U.S. Coast Guard engaged in anti-submarine warfare. His professional organ playing experience began earlier, dating back to 1936 when he was working for the Hammond Clock Company. The company which had just begun manufacturing Hammond Organs had installed one in the Arcadia Rink in Chicago. Berry was hired to play it at \$80 a week (three hours per day). He decided, as a result, to make or-

gan playing his profession.

Following his stint at the Arcadia, Berry moved to the Trianon Ballroom, Chicago, and later spent 18 years as organist of the Hub Rink. In 1956, Berry installed a two-manual Wurlitzer (from the Lake Theatre, Crystal Lake, Illinois) in the basement of his Chicago home. There followed a series of recordings on the instrument the first of which was entitled, "Beast in the Basement." Berry also made a number of recordings on the Hub Rink Wurlitzer, mak-

ing a total of 15 albums so far.

Berry met his wife, Mildred, at a restaurant where he played an electronic organ. On his second wedding anniversary in 1972 he had a stroke and suffered paralysis on his left side. Through the heroic efforts of his wife and his own "never-say-die" spirit, he underwent an intensive period of physical therapy and in 1983 gave his first organ concert since his illness. Berry is one of the artists who was heard at the 1985 National ATOS Convention in Chicago. □



(not official until approved at subsequent meeting.)

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ANNUAL MEETING
August 1, 1985 — The Palmer House
Chicago, Illinois**

1. Present were President Rex Koury and Executive Committee members David Barnett, Dale Mendenhall, Allen Miller and Jack Moelmann, and Executive Director Douglas Fisk was also in attendance (Mendenhall and Fisk arrived late because of their flight schedules). The meeting was called to order at 9:45 p.m. by President Koury.
2. The Committee developed an agenda for the Board meeting scheduled to commence on August 2, 1985.
3. **Chapter Territories.** It was agreed that existing policy should not be changed, but that overlap situations should be resolved within that policy with any territory changes made part of the permanent records.
4. **National Membership Meeting.** There was discussion of the scheduling problem regarding the 1985 meeting, and it was agreed that the meeting must be held as scheduled at the Bismarck Hotel, Chicago, on August 3, 1985, as previously announced.
5. **Technical Awards.** After discussion it was agreed that no set number of technical awards need be given in any given year.
6. **Ben Hall Memorial Organ.** Allen Miller read parts of the committee's report that he planned to give to the full Board. It was suggested that it be determined if there is interest in founding a Ben Hall Memorial Organ Foundation to which the instrument could be donated.
7. **Young Organists Award.** The suggestion was made that we have two or three award categories based on age with a monetary award to each category winner, but with only the overall winner to be brought to appear at the annual Convention. It was also suggested that we solicit funds to support the competition awards and expenses. Further, it was suggested that we be consistent in calling the program the "Young Organists Competition."
8. **Executive Director.** The Committee discussed items relative to renewing the Executive Director's contract.
9. **THEATRE ORGAN Journal.** Editor Bob Gilbert's request to address the full Board was mentioned; Grace E. McGinnis is to be present. The Editor wishes the Board to ad-

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dress the question of whether conventions should pay for typesetting and other purchased services necessary to make convention pre-publicity coverage in THEATRE ORGAN "camera-ready."

10. Mid-Year Board Meeting. The Committee discussed the need for scheduling a mid-year meeting of the full Board, and agreed not to recommend scheduling one at this time, but to determine later if one need be called.

11. Conventions. The Committee discussed possible locales for future conventions.

12. Commemorative Postage Stamp. The Committee reviewed Philip Yankoschuk's efforts to influence the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee to recommend that a stamp picturing a theatre organ console be issued.

13. Radio City Music Hall Wurlitzer. The Committee discussed the advisability of contacting the management of Radio City Music Hall expressing ATOS's interest in the preservation of the instrument as originally installed.

14. Adjournment. There being no further business, upon a motion by Barnett, seconded Mendenhall and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 12:36 a.m. on August 2, 1985.

Respectfully submitted,
David M. Barnett, Secretary

**ATOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ANNUAL MEETING
August 2 - 7, 1985 —
The Palmer House and Chicago Theatre
Chicago, Illinois**

1. Present were President Rex Koury, Treasurer Dale Mendenhall, Secretary David Barnett, Vice President Thelma Barclay and Directors Tom B'hend, Jack Moelmann, Lowell Ayars, Ashley Miller, Richard Sklenar, Walter Strony, Fr. Jim Miller, Lois Segur and Dr. John Landon. Others present were THEATRE ORGAN Editor Robert Gilbert, Librarian/Archivist Vernon Bickel, Executive Director Douglas Fisk and Executive Committee member Allen Miller (later appointed to the Board). Upon his appointment as incoming Vice President, Russell Joseph joined the meeting. Rex Koury presided except for new business items which were handled by President-designate Jack Moelmann. President Koury called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. on August 2, 1985, in Clarke 5, Conference Center 7 of the Palmer House.

2. Minutes. Lois Segur moved, seconded Moelmann, that minutes of the Directors Meeting of February 22-23, 1985, be approved as printed in THEATRE ORGAN (May/June 1985), with the correction that the term "Young Organists Competition" should be used consistently when referring to the program. Unanimous.

3. Hall of Fame and Organist of the Year. Ashley Miller moved, seconded by Lois Segur, that the Board accept the recommendation of the Hall of Fame Committee naming Irma Glen (deceased) and Kay McAbee to the Hall of Fame and that the Board name Dennis James as Organist of the Year. Unanimous.

4. Honorary Member of the Year. Preston Fleet was selected as 1985 Honorary Member.

5. Finances. Treasurer Dale Mendenhall presented a balance sheet as of June 30, 1985, showing current assets of \$65,642.41, fixed assets of \$25,974.94, liabilities of \$7,539.36, and total liabilities and capital of \$91,617.35. Total revenues \$103,304.35, total expenses \$59,925.94, surplus \$43,378.41. He proposed we accept his report revaluing fixed assets at \$25,974.94. Barnett moved to accept, seconded Ashley Miller. Unanimous. Moved Lowell Ayars, seconded Lois Segur to accept the report of the Treasurer. Unanimous. Lowell Ayars asked the status of an audit of the books. Mendenhall said he had consulted a CPA who had stated he considers the books to be adequate; however, there has been no audit. Ayars stated that he feels strongly that the Board should require an audit, even if by a committee of disinterested members. Motion Ayars, second Segur that in lieu of a full audit the Board appoint three disinterested members in good standing to inspect available financial records and then to report their findings to the Board. Unanimous. Moelmann asked if any action had been taken toward bonding the Treasurer. Mendenhall reported that he had applied for a bond but that the application has not been approved pending receipt of a 1984 financial statement. The Board applauded Dale Mendenhall for his diligence in bringing the Society's financial records up-to-date.

6. Bylaws Revisions. There was discussion as to whether a revision is necessary to clarify Section 4.7 which addresses when a Director assumes his duties. Barnett suggested that new Directors assume their duties concurrent with the appointment of new officers at the Annual Membership Meeting, thereby allowing outgoing and incoming directors to at-

tend Directors meetings with the retiring directors invited to attend the remainder of the Directors meeting in an advisory capacity. Sklenar recommended that although bylaws revisions may be effected by the Board without notification to members under Section 8.2, we make a policy of notifying members of pending bylaws changes. There was a suggestion that the annual membership meeting notification provision in Section 3.4 be changed to allow more flexibility, possibly deleting the provision that notice be by First Class Mail, in person, or by telegraph. One suggestion was that the notice be given in an official publication of the Society. It was suggested that Section 4.19 regarding self-dealing transactions be carefully observed as well as Sections 7.5 and 5.8 requiring an annual statement of same to the members from the Secretary. It was also suggested that we had not observed Sections 3.2 and 3.4 to the letter of the bylaws regarding scheduling and notification of meetings. Allen Miller referred to Section 6.1 requiring that two Board members serve on each committee and suggested that that section be changed to require at least one Board member so as to involve more non-directors. Moelmann moved, seconded Segur, that the Bylaws Revision Committee be instructed to review the bylaws and recommend changes and/or clarifications, and that they present their recommendations as to the mechanism required to make such changes and report to the Board no later than November 1, 1985. Unanimous.

7. Convention Planning. Doug Fisk read a report from Convention Planning Coordinator Tim Needler. Motion Mendenhall, second Fr. Miller that the Board accept Motor City Chapter's bid to host the 1989 National Convention. Unanimous. Sklenar suggested that ATOS make it policy to issue a letter of intent prior to the drawing of convention contracts, and that we require the same from the host chapter, stating that they agree to the convention rules in effect at the time of the signing of such a letter. He also noted that he had changed the wording of the convention contract with CATOE regarding repayment of monies advanced. The new wording requires repayment of the advance regardless of the profitability of a convention; he recommended that we make such a requirement ongoing policy. There was a lengthy discussion concerning convention planning and coordinating and guideline observation. Segur suggested that the Executive Committee insist on reviewing the finances of the Chicago '85 convention prior to adjourning the Directors meeting.

8. Gifts and Funding. Lois Segur reported that the committee has looked into published resource materials concerning grant solicitation, and that the committee has also continued its search for a national headquarters and Library/Archives. Funding for the Ben Hall Memorial Organ has not been pursued because of the controversy over the organ. Regarding funding for an ATOS newsletter, she reported that she has not located a source for such a large sum for that project. She reported she has made several contacts in an effort to find prize money for the current membership contest, but had been asked not to pursue that project further.

9. Library/Archives. Moelmann reported that the committee is actively soliciting donations of materials through announcements in THEATRE ORGAN. He said the committee has not yet collected the donation of recording equipment given by Lowell Ayars, but is attempting to make such arrangements. Moved Segur, seconded Ashley Miller, that the Board commend Vernon Bickel for his superb work in organizing, maintaining and cataloging the Library/Archives. Unanimous. Vernon Bickel presented the new ATOS Library/Archives catalog which he has compiled and had printed. On a motion by Ayars, seconded Segur, Bickel was authorized to publish and promote the Library/Archives catalog. Unanimous. Bickel thanked Moelmann and Dale Mendenhall for their fine cooperation in the operation of the Library/Archives program.

10. Report of Executive Director. Doug Fisk reported on the following areas: Membership — He has made a concerted effort to maintain membership records accurately and to report membership information to chapters in a timely manner. He related that the chapters are our best source of new members and that we receive about 100 new members a month. He said the new membership brochure has also resulted in many new members. The latest membership count of paid members is 5025, and Fisk said that he feels there is a very positive feeling now on the part of the members, and that a positive pattern of growth has been established. The membership contest promotion mailing has just gone out and a few inquiries have been made of the travel agency, but no one has signed up for the Australia/New Zealand tour. It was suggested that we promote both the trip and contest at the National Membership Meeting. Cost saving effort — Fisk reported on recent cost-cutting efforts, particularly regarding reducing THEATRE ORGAN to 56 pages and tightening-down on expenses regarding printing overages and other costs, and presented his updated budget projections comparing them to the February 1985 projections; the comparison was very favorable showing revenue over expenses projected now at \$19,281, as compared to a February projection of a loss of \$2632. Fisk said the Executive Director's position has required more time than he had originally thought, and that because of economies effected and his assumption of duties

previously purchased from outside the ATOS, the net cost of having him on board has been very slight. He feels we are now in a good position to make an effort to secure outside funding. Motion Moelmann, seconded Barnett, to commend Doug Fisk for a job well done. Unanimous.

11. Theatre Organ Clearing House. Allen Miller reported that a database has been established for available organs and auditoriums needing them, now with four theatres on the want list and one organ available. Information required for a requesting location: Building name and address, seating capacity, contact person, available funding, description of organ space, description of any organ originally installed there and a description of what type of organ is desired.

12. Program Planning. Rex Koury reported that he plans to write a summary to end his series on the subject, and suggested that copies of the entire series be bound and made available through the Library/Archives. Because the work of the committee has been completed, he feels it might be appropriate to dissolve the committee.

13. Promotion. Jack Moelmann reported that the committee became very active in May with contact being made with organizations similar to ATOS regarding an advertising exchange and cooperation program. He summarized responses to date and the Board had a general discussion regarding expanding our promotional efforts.

14. Education. Thelma Barclay expressed the committee's thanks to the judges of the Young Organists Competition, and to Jack Moelmann for his efforts in coordinating duplication and distribution of cassette tapes of the contestants to the judges. Critiques by the judges were included in personal letters to the contestants encouraging participation in future competitions. Motion Fr. Miller, seconded Mendenhall, that the Board thank the Education Committee for their active participation in the first ATOS Young Organists Competition, and congratulate the ten chapters for their participation, and make it known that the Board eagerly looks forward to even wider chapter participation in future years. Unanimous. Motion Moelmann, seconded Thelma Barclay, that the President write David Rose thanking him for his service as a judge for the 1985 competition. Unanimous.

15. Goals. Richard Sklenar reported that we have worked toward achieving some of the goals, such as professionalism, and creation of a Theatre Organ Clearing House, but that the remaining goals already established continue to be valid and that those goals should be pursued.

16. Nominating Committee. Dale Mendenhall gave his report which is also printed on page 35 of the July/August issue of THEATRE ORGAN. Motion Moelmann, seconded Strony, that the Board accept the report as given. Unanimous.

17. Technical Awards. Allen Miller reported that 18 ballots were mailed to Directors and Technical Award Committee members. Fourteen were returned, with the winner being Dennis Hedberg. Chairman Miller proposed that nominees remain on the ballot for three years, after which time the names would be removed unless renominated.

18. Ben Hall Memorial Organ. Allen Miller reported that some repairs have been made and that the organ is playable and secure, but that many problems have been discovered and much work still needs to be done. After a lengthy discussion, there was a motion by Ayars, seconded Moelmann, that the President be directed to write a letter to Lee Erwin containing the following information: "The ATOS Board of Directors gave contractual responsibility and authority over the Ben Hall Memorial Organ located in Carnegie Hall Cinema to Mr. Lee Erwin. During the contract period certain parts were lost or misplaced. In the spirit of ATOS cooperation, the Board requests that Lee Erwin make every effort to find the lost or misplaced parts or make a mutually agreeable arrangement with Mr. Alfred J. Buttler, who loaned said parts to the Ben Hall Memorial Organ. Mr. Erwin's personal credibility is in jeopardy until this matter has been settled." Unanimous.

19. Chapter Territories. Allen Miller reported that he continues to map territories as defined in the uniform charter agreements, with the prime purpose being to establish territories for new chapters being formed. He outlined a territorial dispute between the New York and Garden State Chapters, representatives from which, as well as from Delaware Valley Chapter, had been invited to speak with the Board in the interest of settling the dispute. Mike Cipolletti, Garden State Chapter Chairman, outlined the Garden State position in the dispute. Rex Koury gave a brief review of the reasons behind the Board's previous decision to award the Northern New Jersey territory of Mercer County and Area Code 201 to Garden State. Cipolletti stated that the chapter desires confirmation of the Board's decision in so doing. Because there was no new information presented, and no representative present at the Board meeting from either New York or Delaware Valley, no action was taken to change the Board's action as stated in the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, July 6-11, 1984. Allen Miller, committee chairman, said that he has discussed with Doug Fisk, and proposes abolishing territories as

outright boundaries, and instead, substituting an operating area concept enabling the Board to identify disputes with disidents, yet allow formation of new chapters having smaller areas where it might encourage growth of ATOS rather than stagnation.

20. Recordings Compendium. Dale Mendenhall reported on the status of the recordings compendium being compiled by Charlie Zell. The work is underway, but is taking longer than originally anticipated. Moved Mendenhall, seconded Allen Miller that the program be continued for another year. Unanimous.

21. Election of Officers. Lowell Ayars requested that the election be conducted by written ballot; Doug Fisk and Bob Gilbert were named tellers. President: Jack Moelmann nominated by Lois Segur. There being no further nominations Ayars moved, seconded Mendenhall, that the nominations be closed and the Secretary instructed to cast a unanimous ballot. Unanimous. Vice President: Allen Miller by Richard Sklenar, Russell Joseph by Lowell Ayars, Irving Light by Dale Mendenhall, and Alden Stockebrand by Allen Miller. Motion Ayars, seconded Ashley Miller that nominations be closed. Unanimous. Elected: Russell Joseph. Secretary: David Barnett by Dale Mendenhall. There be no further nominations, moved Mendenhall, seconded Fr. Miller, that the nominations be closed and the Secretary instructed to cast a unanimous ballot. Unanimous. Treasurer: Dale Mendenhall by Allen Miller. There being no further nominations, Allen Miller moved, seconded Fr. Miller, that the nominations be closed and the Secretary instructed to cast a unanimous ballot. Unanimous. Upon election as President, Jack Moelmann tendered his resignation as Director. Allen Miller was nominated by Dale Mendenhall to fill Moelmann's unexpired term; Mendenhall moved, seconded Ashley Miller, that nominations be closed and the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot. Unanimous. Motion Ayars, seconded Ashley Miller, that the Board commend retiring President Rex Koury and Vice President Thelma Barclay for their dedication and fine service to the Society. Unanimous.

22. Hall of Fame and Organist of the Year. Lowell Ayars advised that for personal reasons he will not be able to continue to chair the committee.

23. Incoming President Jack Moelmann assumed the chair at this point and recognized the contributions made by retiring President Rex Koury and retiring Vice President Thelma Barclay.

24. Election of Executive Committee. Lowell Ayars requested a written ballot; Doug Fisk and Bob Gilbert were named tellers. Nominations: Allen Miller by Dale Mendenhall, Walter Strony by Richard Sklenar, Lowell Ayars by Lois Segur, Lois Segur by Allen Miller. Elected: Allen Miller and Lois Segur. Motion Ayars, seconded Ashley Miller, that the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Directors Allen Miller and Lois Segur be appointed as the Executive Committee and that they be empowered to conduct the regular day-to-day business of the Society. Unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

25. Ben Hall Memorial Organ. Several options were discussed regarding the future of this ATOS property. One suggestion by Dale Mendenhall was to determine if there is interest in forming a Ben Hall Memorial Organ Foundation. Should such a group be formed, ATOS possibly could donate the organ to it. Moelmann suggested the Board might approve viable alternatives for use of the organ and allow a committee to take action on behalf of the board. Resolved, the Board consensus being that the Ben Hall organ in the Carnegie Hall Cinema will be better cared for and maintained as a fitting memorial to Ben Hall, Richard Sklenar moved that the Executive Committee be empowered to donate the Ben Hall Memorial Organ to: 1. A non-profit group which will, 2. Keep it intact, though it may be expanded, and that, 3. Will keep it known as the Ben Hall Memorial Organ, and that if said group can no longer maintain it, 4. Ownership will revert to ATOS. Seconded Ayars. Unanimous. Moved Mendenhall, seconded Allen Miller, that the Board investigate the possibility of establishing a Ben Hall Memorial Foundation that will accept the organ under conditions acceptable to the Ben Hall Memorial Organ Committee. Unanimous. Motion Ayars, seconded Ashley Miller, that the invoice rendered for services to date on the Ben Hall Memorial Organ by Allen Miller be paid, Unanimous. Richard Sklenar brought to the attention of the Board that the Ben Hall organ is not insured because the organ is located in New York State and any policy should be written by an insurer licensed to operate in New York State.

26. Young Organists Competition. Executive Director Doug Fisk proposed that for facilitating national judging, three categories be established based upon age of a participant on July 1 of the competition year: Ages 13-15, 16-18 and 19-21 were categories established with an equal cash award for each category. Then out of the three category winners, the judges will choose an overall winner who would win an additional cash award; should there be insufficient entries in any one category, categories may be combined. The above was moved by Allen Miller, seconded Lois Segur. Unanimous. It

was moved by Mendenhall, seconded Ashley Miller, that cash awards be established at \$300 per category with an additional \$200 paid to the overall winner, with only the overall winner being brought to the national convention, and that the committee assign one selection to be required of each contestant, and that contestants be required to state the source of the arrangement played. Unanimous. Moelmann appointed Strony to form an interim committee to revise the criteria for selections submitted to report back by Wednesday, August 7, 1985, at which time the committee would be dissolved. Strony proposed that the makeup of the judging panel be revised and the committee referred to above make a recommendation on this item as well. Moelmann so directed. Motion Lowell Ayars, seconded Allen Miller, that the 1985 Young Organists Competition rules and regulations presented to the Board at this meeting be accepted except for those items being considered by the Young Organists Award Study Group and those changes already accepted at this meeting. Unanimous.

27. Executive Director's Forecast. Doug Fisk related that he expected to continue to be able to handle the membership functions with local chapter help with mass mailings. He gave a progress report on the current membership contest. He sees a need for more help to chapters from the Executive Director regarding local organizational matters; he believes chapters are essential in promoting long-term membership growth. He believes long-term funding will now be a major area of his concern. Fisk related that he would like to continue in the position but at an increase in compensation. He forecast a dues increase as being necessary eventually. There was general discussion regarding priorities and areas that consume much time. Fisk requested that for the coming 12 months he be paid \$15,000 for 24-27 hours per week. Fisk left the room while the Board considered his request. Moved Ayars, seconded Ashley Miller, that we offer Fisk \$14,000 for not less than 27 hours per week for the coming 12 months. Unanimous. Fisk returned to the room and accepted the Board's offer.

28. New Business from Committee Chairmen. Gifts and Funding: Lois Segur asked to be relieved of her duties as chairman and suggested that a new chairman be appointed who would have more time to address the issues involved. She suggested we formulate specific goals for which to seek funding. **Library/Archives:** Tom B'hend reported that there is no space at the Variety Arts where he had thought we might be able to house the Library/Archives. **Education:** Lois Segur believes we should encourage chapters to make an extra

effort to involve children in theatre organ, such as by giving complimentary tickets to music students and their teachers. There was general discussion on this topic. **Goals:** Richard Sklenar asked if the Board believes we should revise our stated goals. It was suggested that the Goals Committee review the existing goals and make recommendations. **Hall of Fame and Organist of the Year:** Lowell Ayars asked to be relieved of his duties as chairman, and suggested that the Board appoint a chairman for handling those two awards with honorary member suggestions going to the Secretary. **Nominating:** Dale Mendenhall stated that we need to assign this committee, usually handled by the Vice President, but still to be determined for 1986. **Education:** Lowell Ayars was appointed to make suggestions as to how we can move toward acquiring Crawford, Feibel, Milton Charles and other books, and obtaining permission to reproduce them in an effort to improve playing among young organists.

29. Acceptance of New Chapters. Motion Ayars, seconded Allen Miller, to grant the following chapter charters: Chattanooga, Foothills (Knoxville), Sequoia, Mountain State, Hudson-Mohawk Valley (Schenectady), Mid-Florida (Orlando), Buffalo Area, River City (Omaha), Egyptian (Boise), Southwest Michigan, Tri-Counties, Australia-Felix and Virginia. Unanimous.

30. Bank Resolutions. The following were moved by Sklenar, seconded Allen Miller: 1) That the current resolution for Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., be continued and with Rex Koury still empowered to sign checks on behalf of the current president (Directors Meeting Minutes, February 22-23, 1985, Item 14). 2) That the Treasurer be authorized to sign for a six-month extension of the \$7624.24 loan owed on the two computers purchased. The loan had been signed for by the previous treasurer (Account #6346-001000 due six months from 30 July 1985). 3) That the Treasurer be empowered to purchase a one-year Certificate of Deposit at Beaumont Bank, N.A. (Certificate #1597), maturing 1 July 1986, which will be held as security on the computer loan. Unanimous.

31. Reimbursement. Moved B'hend, seconded Strony, that Stu Green be reimbursed \$339.57 for accumulated expenses associated with THEATRE ORGAN journal. Unanimous. Motion Ayars, seconded Segur, that we not reimburse Robert Godfrey for bills presented in connection with copying and telephone expenses in the amount of \$376.34 which were incurred during his research of the Ben Hall organ situation, as this expense was not authorized by the Board. Unanimous.

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32. **Authorization to Purchase Capital Items.** Moved Allen Miller, seconded Ashley Miller, to approve the Executive Committee's purchase of two computers, an answering machine and two photocopiers. Unanimous.

33. **Resignation of Treasurer.** Moved Ayars, seconded Allen Miller, to accept the resignation of Robert McGillivray as Treasurer effective January 31, 1985, and to thank him for his services rendered for the past three and a half years. Unanimous.

34. **THEATRE ORGAN Journal.** Editor Robert Gilbert introduced Grace E. McGinnis to the Board. He asked that the Directors consider the following policies: Preliminary advertising for conventions. Convention advertising is requiring much space, and the Editor needs a policy explaining coverage allowed in the three issues of THEATRE ORGAN in which coverage appears. He believes the individual conventions should pay for type, layouts, paste-ups and the like, but not for the actual printing. Reference was made to the Convention Planning Handbook which covers the item, and the consensus of the Board was not to effect changes pending revisions of convention policy. Gilbert requested a small travel allowance to be used for travel to develop stories and arrange for photographs. He would like to have perhaps one such trip a year. The matter was considered day-to-day business to be handled by the Executive Committee. Gilbert noted that type size has been reduced in the journal as a space-saving measure. He announced that the deadline for the September/October issue would be September 15. The Board showed its appreciation to Bob Gilbert and his staff for their excellent work on the journal with a hand of applause. There was a general discussion concerning journal items, including a request by the Editor for a notice to chapters to send copies of their chapter newsletters to the THEATRE ORGAN Editor.

35. **Contract Samples.** Bob Gilbert suggested that a file be maintained in the Library/Archives of sample contracts setting up organ installation agreements.

36. **Establishment of Committees.** Moved Ayars, seconded Landon, to establish the following committees: Awards and Recognition (to include Hall of Fame, Organist of the Year, Honorary Member of the Year and Technical Awards), Bylaws, Chapter Territories, Nominating, Theatre Organ Clearing House, Convention Planning, Membership, Gifts and Funding, Goals, Library/Archives, Program Planning, Promotion and Publicity, Ben Hall Memorial Organ, Technical, Education and Young Organists Competition. Unanimous.

37. **Acceptance of New Members.** Moved Allen Miller, seconded Lowell Ayars, to accept all members applying since June 15, 1985. Unanimous.

38. **Committee Assignments.** President Moelmann made the following committee assignments with the first person listed as chairman: Bylaws, Richard Sklenar, Dale Mendenhall; Chapter Territories, Allen Miller; Convention Planning, Tim Needler, Alden Stockebrand; Membership, Dale Mendenhall; Gifts and Funding, Irving Light, Lois Segur; Goals, Richard Sklenar, David Barnett; Awards and Recognitions, John Landon, Lowell Ayars; Library/Archives, Tom B'hend, Vern Bickel, John Landon; Nominating, Russell Joseph, Dale Mendenhall; Theatre Organ Clearing House, Allen Miller; Promotion and Publicity, Tom B'hend, Trudy Hemicz; Program Planning, Rex Koury, Walt Strony, Allen Miller; Ben Hall Memorial Organ, Allen Miller, Ashley Miller, Dale Mendenhall; Technical, Allen Miller, Walt Strony; Education, Fr. Jim Miller, Walt Strony, Ashley Miller; Young Organists Competition, Walt Strony, Thelma Barclay, Ashley Miller.

39. **Exclusion of Directors from Judging Competitions.** Strony moved, seconded Ashley Miller, that Directors be excluded from judging ATOS-sponsored competitions. Unanimous.

40. **Chicago Convention 1985.** Jim Shaffer, CATOE Chairman, was introduced to the Board. Rex Koury requested a reading of the 1985 convention budget, a statement of number of conventioners budgeted for, and a listing of any extraordinary expenses. Shaffer replied that the committee had budgeted based upon 550, and then again on the number of persons actually expected to attend. Fisk asked for a rough estimate of bottom line profit or loss, but Shaffer said he did not have figures with him necessary to make such an estimate. Koury advised Shaffer that the Board sees no need for an "informal" meeting session on August 3, 1985, because business must be conducted on the date and at the time and place for which due notice was given, on August 4 (Sunday, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. at the Membership Brunch at the Bismarck Hotel). Koury asked if the 1985 Convention Committee was aware that conventions are to pay for layout and mechanicals for coverage in THEATRE ORGAN; Shaffer answered that they would include this expense. Shaffer was then asked to brief the Board on the convention's finances. He reported that he did not have figures with him and that he and others of the committee were too involved with administering the convention to develop a report at this time, but projected that expenses would exceed the \$73,000 budget some-

what, but that registrations were 800+, not 550 as originally budgeted for. Also organ repairs were running over budget because it was necessary to hire professionals mostly for organ tuning. Organist and entertainer fees and expenses possibly would exceed the \$12,683 budget. He foresaw no major changes in scheduling that would make a material difference in the budget. The original \$27,100 transportation budget would be "almost double" because of increased registrations, but is holding relatively as projected. Shaffer agreed to make every effort to compile more up-to-date figures and report to the Board on August 4, 1985; this information was not provided. He confirmed that all artists, except cameo performers, would be paid \$500.

41. **Ben Hall Memorial Organ.** The committee requested an authorization to spend an amount not to exceed \$500 for additional repairs to the organ. Ashley Miller so moved, seconded by Dr. Landon; carried with Allen Miller abstaining.

42. **Scheduling of Next Directors Meeting.** President Moelmann requested the Executive Committee to decide whether a mid-year meeting of the full Board should be held, and requested that any such meeting be scheduled in January with the decision made by December 1, 1985, and with tentative meeting dates of January 10-12.

43. **Newsletter.** There was general discussion concerning form and content, funding, cost control and editorial policy of any future ATOS Newsletter. Ayars suggested we should not embark upon this project unless we can commit to a full year of 12 monthly issues. Tom B'hend projected annual cost for a monthly four-page issue as approximately \$15,000 including printing, postage and mailing. Motion Ayars, seconded Mendenhall, that the Board pursue publishing a monthly newsletter, but only if full funding for one year, not coming from the general fund, can be arranged. Unanimous. Motion Strony, seconded Ashley Miller, that ATOS reimburse Tom B'hend an amount not to exceed \$500 for expenses associated with the newsletter feasibility study. Unanimous.

44. **Financial Audit.** B'hend moved, seconded Ayars, that the Executive Director be empowered to appoint three disinterested persons with business experience, to be approved by the Executive Committee, to examine the financial records of the Society from January 1981 through December 1984, and to report their findings to the Board by November 1, 1985. Unanimous.

45. **Australia/New Zealand Trip.** Moelmann appointed Strony to review plans for music events scheduled for the tour with his first report to the Executive Committee due October 1, 1985.

46. **Recognition of Motor City Chapter.** Barnett moved, seconded Segur, that the Board congratulate the Motor City Chapter for their outstanding achievement in purchasing and paying off the mortgage on the Redford Theatre. Unanimous.

47. **Scheduling of 1986 Annual Membership Meeting.** Sklenar moved, seconded Allen Miller, that the 1986 Annual Membership Meeting be held during the Richmond Convention on a date and at a time and place agreed to by the President and 1986 Convention Committee, with proper notice to be given to members. Unanimous.

48. **Scheduling of 1986 Annual Directors Meeting.** Sklenar moved, seconded B'hend, that the 1986 Annual Directors Meeting be scheduled during the Richmond Convention on a date and at a time and place agreed upon by the President and the 1986 Convention Committee. Unanimous.

49. **Adjournment.** There being no further business, upon a motion by B'hend, seconded Allen Miller and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned on August 7, 1985, at 10:40 p.m. Central Daylight Saving Time, at the Chicago Theatre.

Respectfully submitted,
David M. Barnett, *National Secretary*

MINUTES — ATOS NATIONAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
August 4, 1985 — The Bismarck Pavilion
Chicago, Illinois

1. **Invocation.** Dr. John Landon opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. **Call to Order.** President Rex Koury called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

3. **Thanks to 1985 Convention.** President Rex Koury expressed the thanks to the Chicago Convention Committee from all conventioners attending for their work and dedication in preparing for another great convention.

4. **Announcements.** President Koury introduced Charles Cooney who made several convention-related announcements.

5. **Introduction of Officers.** Koury then introduced ATOS Officers, Directors, and staff.

6. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Dale Mendenhall reported that our finances are in order and appear to have improved to the point that we would be able to pay for the last 1985 issue of THEATRE ORGAN from current year income, and would finish the year "in the black." He explained that because of declining interest rates the Young Organists Competition trust fund would not earn sufficient interest to fund the program and that the balance would be made up from the general fund.

7. **Executive Director's Report.** Douglas Fisk reported a membership growth of 320 over the past year and thanked the chapters for being instrumental in the growth of the organization to over 5000 members. He reiterated that chapter members must be ATOS members and then outlined the current membership contest which has a grand prize of two tickets for the Australia/New Zealand tour in February, 1986, hosted by Rex Koury; he projected attendance of 100-200. He then related his experiences of the past year in visiting chapters, emphasizing that chapters and ATOS leadership should consider themselves a single entity striving to meet the goals of the Society.

8. **1984 Meeting Minutes.** David Love moved, seconded Richard Sklenar, to accept the 1984 National Membership Meeting minutes as printed in the September/October 1984 issue of THEATRE ORGAN. Carried.

9. **Phoenix Regional Convention.** Koury announced the Thanksgiving regional convention to be hosted by the Valley of the Sun Chapter to be held in the Phoenix area November 29-December 1, 1985.

10. **Theatre Organ.** Editor Robert Gilbert introduced the journal's staff.

11. **ATOS Newsletter.** Koury announced the possibility of an ATOS monthly newsletter relating items of current interest, but said that financing has not been arranged, and that the Board has decided that a newsletter should not be paid for from general funds at this time. He asked for suggestions from members on this topic.

12. **Young Organists Competition.** President Koury related that the first annual competition was most successful with ten finalists, three of whom were very close. He announced that certain rules and revisions are being developed to be announced very soon. In response to a question from the floor, Lois Segur was asked to announce the names of the three finalists, which she did. They were Martin Ellis, Central Indiana; Melissa Ambrose, Motor City; and Rebecca Rieker, San Diego.

13. **Review of the Year's Activities.** Koury reviewed the accomplishments of the past year, citing in particular increased membership, and the awarding of more charters to new chapters than in any other year he could recall. He suggested that every ATOS member recruit at least one new member, thereby doubling membership.

14. **Adjournment.** There being no further business, on a motion by Alden Stockebrand, seconded Steve McCormick, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David M. Barnett, *National Secretary*

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES
ANNUAL MEETING
August 3, 1985 — The Palmer House
Chicago, Illinois

1. Meeting was called to order by President Rex Koury at 3:30 p.m. at which time he welcomed the representatives to the 30th Annual Convention and to Chicago. He then introduced ATOS Officers and Directors, all of whom were present except Dr. John Landon and Russell Joseph. He then introduced THEATRE ORGAN Editor Robert Gilbert.

2. President Koury then introduced Executive Director Douglas Fisk who was invited to address the representatives. He talked about the transition of membership records to the new computer owned by ATOS, and announced that chapter rosters are now being sent to chapters every second month instead of monthly. He reiterated that all local members must be ATOS members, and remarked that it is most important that this be so in order to move forward toward the goals of the Society. Fisk then reviewed direct dues collection procedures and asked for full cooperation from chapters with the procedures. He then made reference to the membership contest and Australia/New Zealand trip. He mentioned that one of his goals is to be of greater assistance to chapters.

3. President Koury then introduced Doris and Floyd Mumm who do layout and mechanicals for the THEATRE ORGAN Journal.

4. **Roll Call of Chapters.** **Alabama.** Aloha: Lou Underhill said that the chapter was now back working in the Hawaii Theatre on the Robert-Morton organ there and looking for funds to purchase and relocate a 2/6 Wurlitzer Style D, the first in Hawaii. **Atlanta:** David Tuck reported that the chapter has had a good year and is growing and holding regular meetings using two organs, one in a restaurant and the Atlanta Fox Miller. He related that the chapter is experimenting with "Yellow Pages" advertising. The chapter complimented the direct dues collection procedure. **Australia Felix.** **Beehive.** **Bluegrass.** **Buffalo Area:** Allen Miller, an honorary member of the chapter, announced that membership has grown to 42 with four concerts during the past year, a Young Organists Competition, and that the 4/23 Wurlitzer at Shea's is being used before shows and for tours; four concerts are planned for the coming year, and they expect to release a compact disc recording soon. **Cedar Rapids:** George Baldwin reported that regular concerts are being presented, and the chapter uses the Paramount organ before shows and has programs at a second theatre as well. **Central Florida:** Sandra Shook reported that six to eight members were present at the convention, and that the chapter is involved in installing a chapter organ; most meetings are held in homes and music stores, but the chapter is growing. **Central Indiana.** **Central Ohio.** **Chattanooga.** **Chicago Area:** Jim West, Vice Chairman, related that the chapter has presented several shows this past year including one at the Arcadia Theatre, but needed to slow their concert series to make time for organ maintenance for this convention; West registered a complaint that convention guidelines had been changed regarding organist fees when the fee was increased to \$500, and alleged that the fee was increasing registration fees making conventions unaffordable. President Koury explained the ATOS position with regard to the organist fee, explaining that the Board feels the fee is at an adequate and appropriate level. **Connecticut Valley:** Cog Briggs told the group of problems with the fire code causing the closing of the 101-year-old Thomaston Opera House; he is in charge of the \$1 million fund-raising effort to restore the house and bring it up to current codes; he asked for help from other chapters as to how best to raise the money, and related that the chapter continues to install a 3/15 Austin and hopes to have concerts on that organ while Thomaston is closed. **Dairyland.** **Delaware Valley:** Harry Linn said that the chapter was relocating the Sedgewick Theatre Müller to the Keswick Theatre and hopes to have it playing in six months; they are also working on the Philadelphia Civic Center Müller. **Eastern Massachusetts:** Dick Johnson, Chapter President, extended his greetings, and said that the Babson College Wurlitzer, Stoneham Town Hall, and John Hancock Town Hall organs are all chapter projects, and that the group is celebrating their 30th year. **Egyptian.** **Foothills:** Tim Johnson reported that the chapter works along with the non-affiliated group, Theatre Organ Society of Tennessee, on the 3/14 Wurlitzer at the Tennessee Theatre, and he hopes soon to have all TOST members as chapter members. **Garden State:** Mike Cipolletti said that the chapter re-opened the Broadway Theatre, now a church, with a Robert-Morton organ; has a full series of five concerts at the Trenton War Memorial, and with profits held a free concert for patrons; they have given care to the 3/8 Kilgen in the Asbury Music Hall which they hope will receive more use; they are also working on a 2/8 at the Pasack Theatre, and are looking for an organ for Harms Plaza to replace the long-removed Welte. **Gulf Coast.** **Hudson-Mohawk Valley.** **Joliet Area:** Jan Challenger reported that the chapter uses mostly the Barton at the Rialto Square for performances, but that many meetings are held in homes; they have installed a new combination action at the Rialto which rents the organ from the chapter when they use it. **Kingston:** Walter Vos reported that the chapter has had several well-attended concerts and fund-raisers on their organ, the largest theatre organ in Canada, and that they plan to continue their series. **Kiwi.** **Land O' Lakes:** Don Johnson announced that the World Theatre 3/21 Wurlitzer would be featured on "A Prairie Home Companion," an American Public Radio Network show with national distribution; the chapter has a 2/5 Robert-Morton organ. **Land of Lincoln.** **London and South of England:** Lowell Ayars read a portion of their written report which told of their continuing concert series and club nights, and of their healthy balance sheet despite an unfavorable dollar/Sterling exchange rate; the chapter has a youth program in place, a continuing maintenance program for their own organs as well as others; the chapter requested that better means of communications be developed, especially timely advice of American organists' touring schedules. **Los Angeles:** Ralph Beaudry said the chapter likes the membership brochure and hopes it can be made available to chapters without charge, said the chapter misses *The Console* and hopes funds can be located for publishing an ATOS monthly newsletter; he reported that L.A. will host the 1987 convention and plans to present six new organs at that time. **Mid-Florida.** **Motor City:** Dorothy Van Steenkiste reported that the chapter has a bi-weekly movie series which pays the bills, as well as monthly concerts at the Redford and Royal Oak Theatres, (the future of the Punch 'n' Judy Theatre is uncertain at this time); she reported that their Young Organists Competition was well-received and that young people are one of the chapter's primary interests; they have written to all their

young chapter members and competition participants to organize Young Organists Night at the Redford, which is a show put on entirely by the young people of the chapter; restoration work is coming along well at the Redford, and the chapter offers their help to other groups who need it. **Mountain State:** Betty Walls said that the chapter is restoring the old Capitol Theatre and hopes to replace the original organ; they have been given an organ by the Potomac Valley Chapter. **New York:** Tom Stehle reported that their major project is installing a Wurlitzer at the Middletown Theatre; the chapter has had several concerts over the year, maintains the LIU and Beacon Theatre Wurlitzers; membership is up, and they are upgrading their newsletter. **Nor-Cal:** Lowell Wendell related the chapter's experience in applying for tax exemption and in getting their own theatre; they now have the Berkeley Community Theatre and a 3/19 Wurlitzer has been donated; they are looking toward possibly installing a four-manual organ there, and are looking forward to presenting their own organ at the 1990 convention. **North Texas:** Irving Light reported that the chapter uses the Scottish Rite Temple Wicks, but is installing a 3/8 Robert-Morton in a neighborhood movie house and expects to have it playing by September. **Ohio Valley:** Claire Lawrence said that the chapter is celebrating its 25th anniversary and their eighth year of a successful movie series. **Oregon.** **Piedmont.** **Pikes Peak.** **Pine Tree:** Bob Legon reported that the chapter has a greatly renewed interest among young people and is moving forward; they have two organs available for concerts, have found that classical organ listeners are some of their best converts; they have a new newsletter, more activities, better attendance, new projects, have had television coverage, a mini-convention, and in general a much happier group than last year. **Potomac Valley.** **Puget Sound:** Thelma Barclay said that the chapter continues to be very active and related their good fortune in having a great crew, and many good organs to play both in theatres and restaurants. **Quad Cities.** **Red River:** Sonia Carlson reported that the chapter has been operating the Fargo Theatre since July 1982, and now has bought the theatre. **River City:** Jack Moelmann advised that this new chapter now has 45 members and is preparing for their first major organ program in August at the Orpheum Theatre. **Rocky Mountain:** Dorothy Retalack reported that the Denver Paramount has been under wraps while being restored for almost a year, but is due to return to use in October; the chapter has at least 60 members at every meeting, many of which are held in homes with excellent instruments. **San Diego:** Wayne Seppala reported on the chapter's successful film series, Young Organists Competition, and other activities. **Sequoia:** Tom Delay reported that the chapter remains quite active and involved in many projects. **Sierra:** Dale Mendenhall advised that the chapter is installing an electronic relay at the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse. **Sooner State.** **Southeast Texas.** **South Florida:** Hal Henry brought greetings and compliments to the Board for new ideas, including the membership brochure; he suggested that ATOS relay information to chapters on how volunteers can work better with other volunteers; the chapter appreciated the series on program planning and would like to have the materials readily available; the chapter is alive and well and now owns its own organ which is played regularly. **Southwest Michigan:** Diana Haskins told of the chapter's growth and of their hopes to have their own organ. **St. Louis.** **Toledo Area:** Helen Sherman said the chapter has grown and will be dedicating a new organ soon. **Valley of the Sun:** Bill Danford reported that the chapter is well represented at the convention, has doubled their meeting attendance, and is busy working on a regional convention for November 29-December 1, 1985. **Virginia:** Sharolyn Heatwole reported that the group is very busy preparing for the 1986 convention in Richmond; the chapter has printed a new membership brochure which includes information about local organs as well as the chapter, has sponsored several silent film presentations, and maintains the 4/17 Wurlitzer at the Byrd Theatre, and that members are working with the crew on the 3/21 Carpenter Center Wurlitzer. **Western Reserve.** **Wolverine:** Homer Warren said that the chapter is a strictly social group that holds meetings in churches, homes and pizza parlors, and that the group occasionally attends functions of other chapters.

5. **Theatre Organ Clearing House.** Allen Miller reported that he has developed a database for use in exchanging information about theatres needing organs and organs needing placement (explained in detail in Directors Meeting minutes).

6. **Newsletter.** President Koury mentioned that the Board is considering publishing a monthly newsletter but needs to find the money to do so (further details are in the Directors Meeting minutes).

7. **Young Organists Competition.** President Koury thanked the chapters for their enthusiastic participation in the 1985 competition, and encouraged their active participation in next year's program.

8. **Adjournment.** President Koury asked that any other business be brought up, and there being none, he adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David M. Barnett, National Secretary

Letters to the Editors

Opinions expressed in this column are those of the correspondents, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or the policies of ATOS or THEATRE ORGAN.

Letters concerning all aspects of the theatre organ hobby are welcome. Unless clearly marked "not for publication" letters may be published in whole or in part.

Address:

Editor, THEATRE ORGAN
3448 Cowper Court
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Dear Bob:

I had a very pleasant surprise recently, when I jokingly asked the doorman at the Midwood Theatre in the heart of Brooklyn, New York, "What time will the organ be featured this evening?" This theatre had lost its pipe organ to disuse eons of years ago. You can imagine my amazement when he replied, "He'll be playing as you enter the auditorium!" Well, the organist proved to be none other than Lee Erwin, playing a Capitol Theatre Wurlitzer pipe organ rendition of D. W. Griffith's *Intolerance* and *Birth of a Nation*. This was accomplished by a tiny cassette in a mammoth sound system, during intermission.

As I was born in Brooklyn in 1919, and no longer live there, I felt I'd come home as I sat in this once-lavish theatre, thrilled to the core!

With sincerest best wishes, I remain,
Respectfully,
Nathan H. Wechter
Rockaway Beach, New York

Dear Bob:

I read with more than passing interest the article in the May/June issue of THEATRE ORGAN which pertained to my old "amour," the "not so Wurlitzer" organ at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary. As I was the prime mover in gaining both local and national attention for the instrument in the '60s and early '70s and was responsible for its tonal balances, unique features and most performances, I feel privileged to share this additional information which was either unknown or omitted from the CATOE article.

I had been aware of the organ's existence since 1953, when one of our local parish priests made reference to it saying, "the old organ from the Chicago Theatre