

Theatre Organ

JOURNAL OF THE
AMERICAN THEATRE
ORGAN SOCIETY

Library of Congress Catalog Number: ML1 T 334
(ISSN 0040-5531)

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 5
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1990

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Printing & Mailing
Times Litho / Forest Grove, Oregon

President's Message



After my last several messages where I have ranted and raved about the future of ATOS I thought I would take a few minutes to let you know how some of our projects are going and to say thanks to some of the people who work behind the scenes for the American Theatre Organ Society.

The Towe Ford Museum project in Sacramento is proceeding well. We have been asked to provide a small theatre organ for a 250-seat theatre that will be built within the complex. Eventually, we hope to have a larger location as a companion facility to the museum in order to have a permanent archives and "living" museum for ATOS. We expect to have several hands-on demonstrations available for the public to view and operate so that they may learn the history of the theatre organ and just what a theatre organ is and how it operates. Should you have a small to medium size theatre organ that you would be willing to donate to the American Theatre Organ Society please let us know. As you may or may not know, the American Theatre Organ Society is a non-profit, public benefit corporation that can accept tax deductible donations (financial or otherwise) through its IRS(501)(c)(3) status. If you, or someone you know, would like to make a tax-deductible donation please contact me or any of our officers and/or directors for details and procedures.

While our radio show has not yet made it to the airwaves, we are confident that it will shortly. We still need your help in getting stations to carry the program and would appreciate any help you can give us.

Bob Markworth has shipped the Chapter Handbook. We hope this handbook will assist chapters in areas that they may need assistance. Contact your local chapter president if you would like to peruse this rather formidable document.

I feel that there are a few people that should be recognized for having done an absolutely super job this past year. First of all, a lady who works tirelessly so that we will have a first rate Society publication, Grace McGinnis. Secondly, a wonderful lady who worked just about totally behind the scenes during the Board Election counting the 2500 ballots we received this past year, Margaret Ann Foy. Next, a man who not only donates a great deal of his personal time as curator of the archives but who also was responsible for generating over \$4000 for ATOS this past year with his record auction, Vern Bickel. To Dorothy Van Steenkiste for her stewardship of our Young Organist Competition, this year with ten entrants. To Laurel Haggart, who has been busy reading and answering over 150 letters from people interested in helping locate and catalog the remaining theatre organs in the world. And, finally, to Dale Mendenhall, our treasurer, who spends countless hours keeping the books for the Society, and making sure our bills are paid promptly and cheerfully. While I realize I haven't mentioned many others who work for the betterment of the Society, please accept my warmest thanks for all of your hard work and tireless effort.

Now, for your part as a benefiting member of ATOS: PLEASE, PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO THANK THESE PEOPLE! They do what they do for the love of the organization and theatre organ, but a card or phone call would help them to realize that you appreciate all of their hard work.

Well that about does it for now, no lectures this time ... just a heartfelt thanks to all of those who help make the Society what it is.

Sincerely,
John B. Ledwon

Fresno Frolic!

BEST TRAVEL ROUTES TO HOLIDAY INN CENTRE PLAZA

FROM THE AIRPORT . . . Call for hotel shuttle from courtesy phone in baggage area.
FROM SANTA FE DEPOT (AMTRAK) Short taxi ride (three blocks).
FROM HIGHWAY 99 Exit east on Ventura Avenue. Hotel is at 2233 Ventura.

HOLIDAY INN PHONE NUMBER: 209/268-1000

ALTERNATE HOTELS (Transportation on your own)

LA QUINTA — \$50.00 single 209/442-1110
DOWNTOWN — \$30.00 single 209/268-0621
TRAVELODGE — \$29.00 single 209/485-7750
VIKING — \$22.00 single 209/268-8781