



Karl Cole at Springdale Music Palace. BH



Walt Strony at the Wehmeier Wurlitzer. MLV



Ron Wehmeier residence. PIQ



Side entrance to Wehmeier residence - music room to the right. BH

AFTERGLOW

by Paul Quarino

Boarding our coaches one more time was, for the 400 lucky conventioners who registered for the Afterglow, the beginning of another wonderful day of organ events and activities.

Our first stop was the Springdale Music Palace in Cincinnati where we had lunch, and Karl Cole entertained us on the 4/33 Wurlitzer. His performance had music for all of us — from the classics to popular. His singing and pleasant patter between selections was a welcome change from the usual theatre organ concert format. The appearance of Anna Chovie, his singing assistant, cleverly showed to what extent this very talented performer would be willing to go to present the theatre organ to the public. We were satisfied with lunch, and all left with smiles on our faces for one reason or another.

Morning departure times had been staggered because of limited seating at some events. While one group was at Springdale, another was at the Ron Wehmeier residence listening to Walt Strony on the marvelous 4/33 Wurlitzer, and a third was at a nearby shopping mall waiting for the others to catch up at the BIG CHURCH.

The Wehmeier residence was a real treat to see. As we left our coaches and walked up the long driveway to what appeared to be a modest, three-story historical type of restored home, we reached a side entrance and were led through a modern kitchen into a new addition to the home which houses the Wurlitzer and at least three grand pianos, a huge bar, antiques, an awesome crystal chandelier and even a console model Hammond organ with a Leslie!

Ron introduced Walt Strony, and our musical appetites were again satiated with brilliant offerings of harmonies and techniques seldom experienced anywhere in the theatre organ scene. Walt put this beautiful Wurlitzer through its paces from

one end of the musical spectrum to the other and back again. We wanted more, but had to stop as the next coaches were at the bottom of the hill waiting to unload their eager listeners.

Our group then left for the nearby shopping center. This large, expensive mall had several levels to explore. At one end of the lower level was an indoor amusement park with all kinds of carnival rides, including a reproduction fibreglass carousel. Several conventioners were seen reliving some childhood memories by riding the carousel over and over.

Our mall-time ended, and our coaches met with the others at St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption in Covington, Kentucky, a huge, European-style cathedral with the largest stained-glass church window in the world. We heard music from three different areas of the cathedral: the Transept organ with four-manual console by Aultz-Kersting and 18 ranks of pipes; the Sanctuary 42-rank Wicks organ and the Historic Gallery organ, built in 1859 by Matthias Schwab. Our artists were Rodney L. Barbour and Karl V. Cole, and the selections presented gave us ample variety as we heard these artists and organs.

Following the Basilica program, we boarded our coaches and headed down to the riverfront where our Funliner Cruise Boat was waiting to take us on a three-hour dinner cruise . . . a perfect way to end a very special week . . . special because the Central Indiana chapter took exceptionally good care of us!

A final note: the number of youth appearing as performers in this convention and the youth in attendance give us a very good yardstick to measure things by; the indications, realized by this writer, are that ATOS and the theatre organ are assured a good and healthy future. Our hard work is paying off. We are growing and not just old!



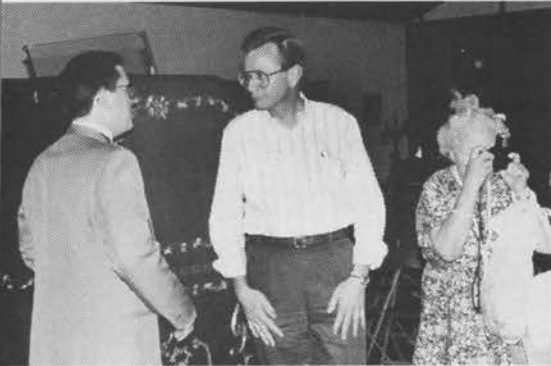
Allen Miller on the carousel in the mall.



Rodney Barbour in the Basilica. PJQ



Karl Cole in the Basilica. PJQ



Walt Strongy chats with Richard Rogers. PJQ



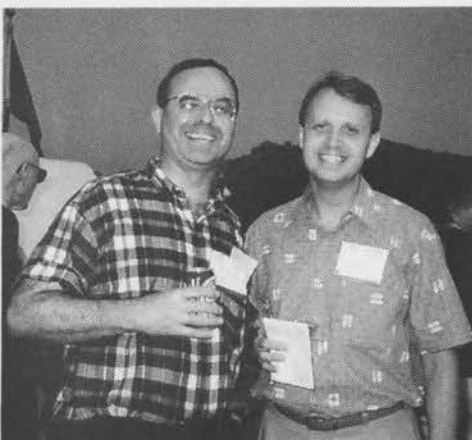
St. Mary's. PJQ



Karl Cole with Anna Chovie. MLV



On the deck of the Funliner. BH



Tim Needler and Tom Lind relax on the Funliner. MLV