

# Directors' Corner

## ■ Alden Stockebrand

The main goal of the American Theatre Organ Society is the preservation of the theatre organ as a viable musical art form. To accomplish this we must keep theatre organs in locations where they can be seen and heard by the public. In the thirty plus years that I have been involved in the theatre organ movement, I have watched the number of instruments available in public venues constantly dwindle. We must put a stop to this.

Part of the problem can be traced to chapters and local independent clubs that have spent many hours and dollars repairing and restoring organs only to have them sold out from underneath them or taken away from them because of feuding among themselves.

The ATOS as well as many of the chapters are chartered as nonprofit corporations. As such we are obligated to try to run them in a businesslike manner. Sometimes, in our quest to get an organ playing we lose sight of this. When a chapter contracts to do work on an instrument every effort should be made to guarantee that our efforts will not be lost. I realize that this is sometimes a difficult task but if we want to preserve the art for future generations it must be done.

Alden Stockebrand  
419 W. Oakdale Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60657



## 1991 San Francisco Convention

### RECORDS STORE

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## ■ Laurel Haggart

The horizons of ATOS are expanding and you loyal ATOS members have made this possible. We were once called Enthusiasts, and although our name has changed, it is the enthusiasm to share the majesty and beauty of the music of theatre pipes with others that is the glue holding us together. We are forging ahead with plans for a national headquarters for our archives with, eventually, a theatre containing a pipe organ; more and more chapters have taken on the responsibility of installing and maintaining a chapter organ; the Young Organist Competition gives our youth the opportunity to perform, and our new scholarship program will encourage talented youngsters in this endeavor which will keep our music alive.

We have much to look forward to, yet we must not forget our past accomplishments. Many are delving into the past so we may have a complete history of our organization. As for my particular project, the home theatre pipe organ listing is continuing so please send information on yours if you haven't already.

Informational articles of chapter organs are published in THEATRE ORGAN, but whether a written or a narrative cassette, each chapter installation should have a file in our archives. Who spearheaded the project, where did the organ come from, how funded, specs, names of volunteers whose time and energies were given to the various phases of installation and even some of the pitfalls encountered (always have them). This information will be a great help for other chapters on the verge of such a monumental undertaking. As chapters grow and records change hands, a record of each chapter installation should be preserved in our archives. During the past three years it has been a privilege and honor to serve as one of your directors. Thank you, all.

Laurel D. Haggart  
P.O. Box 902  
Lake Arrowhead, California 92352

## ■ Paul Quarino

On a trip to Fresno in September, I had the pleasure of visiting George and Vi Thompson in Salinas. I thoroughly enjoyed an evening walking through history with this delightful couple.

The highlight of the evening was listening to them reminisce about the early years of ATOS and their experiences producing the Journal. George had some wonderful stories to tell about the formation of our society that I hope will someday be written as part of our history.



*George took a break from storytelling long enough for me to get this picture of him at his Style 165 Wurlitzer.*

People have responded to my requests for historical information and I have, so far, enough material to establish two categories of files. The first is a collection of newspaper articles and the second is photographs. I now have newspaper files for 13 states and a varied collection of theatre organ related stories. When completed, these files will become part of our Archive. I am still looking for more material.

Serving on your board of directors has been a most pleasant experience, and I have learned how much fun it can be to be involved in something you love.

Paul Quarino  
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Portland, Oregon 97266



Watch for news of Nor-Cal's  
"NINETY-ONE-DERFUL" CONVENTION

July 5-9, 1991!

