

# Theatre Organ

JOURNAL OF THE  
AMERICAN THEATRE  
ORGAN SOCIETY

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

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 2  
MARCH/APRIL 1991

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Times Litho / Forest Grove, Oregon

## President's Message



It was with deep regret that I accepted the resignation of Director Lowell Ayars. I would like to thank Lowell for his years of dedicated service to the American Theatre Organ Society. Lowell, we wish you well. You will be genuinely missed. The Board of Directors has subsequently elected Byron Melcher to complete the term of Lowell Ayars.

Since the ATOS will be installing the Cecil B. DeMille Wur-litzer recently donated by Les and Olive Pepiot, I thought it would be a good idea to tell our members a little about the organ's new home, a location chosen primarily because it will be

visible to a large number of people who might not otherwise be exposed to a theatre organ.

The organ will be installed in the Olde Town section of Sacramento where there are presently several museums, including of the finest railroad museums in the world. The railway museum is currently being expanded to accommodate a considerably larger number of exhibits. Our organ will be installed in the Towe Ford Museum, about a half mile from the railroad museum. The Towe Ford Museum is considered by many to house the finest collection in the world of Ford Motor Company products. It is the feeling of many on the Board that "piggy-backing" with another popular nostalgia-oriented venue would enhance our ability to develop new converts to the wonderful sound of the theatre organ.

Our organ will be installed in a little theatre where guests will congregate for a short presentation prior to venturing into the museum proper. The "theatre" will have low walls so the organ will be heard throughout the museum. It is hoped that we will be able to fund a digital player for the instrument to facilitate its use without having to call in an artist.

As I mentioned in my last message, we are looking for donations of theatre organ equipment to complete this instrument. Please see the January/February issue for our wish list. Parties interested in donating parts to the ATOS can receive a tax write-off if they desire. You may contact Dale Mendenhall at 916/967-5060 or myself at 818/889-8894 for further information.

Some other points of interest to our members:

Russ Hamnett, our vice president, has tapes of our radio show ready for distribution to radio stations interested in carrying the show, *Theatre Pipes*. Should you know of a station in your area that would be interested, please give Russ a call at KNAU Radio, Flagstaff, 800/523-8870.

For you who own organs, both pipe and electronic, remember we have special groups within ATOS to act as forums to disseminate information on installation practices, maintenance suggestions and just good old camaraderie. Call Laurel Haggart for pipe organs, 714/336-2909, and Jack Moelmann for electronics, 618/632-8455, if you would like to be part of either group.

Our Ninety-One-Derful Convention is coming up July 5-9 in San Francisco. Details are elsewhere in this issue.

It has been my opinion for as long as I can remember that ATOS has never really informed the membership when openings occur in the officer ranks, and I believe that if our membership knows of these positions, the Board might have a broader representation of the membership to choose from when they select new officers. The Bylaws state that the current President and Vice President cannot serve another term; therefore, if you are interested in serving ATOS in these or any other offices, please contact Tom DeLay, Nominating Chairman at 162 West Roberts Street, Fresno, CA 93704, or call him at 209/431-4305. Please don't prove me wrong!

See you in San Francisco!

Sincerely,

John Ledwon

ERWIN A. "Cap" YOUNG,  
President of ATOS from 1972-1974,  
passed away February 25, in Florida.

(Article will appear in future issue. Ed.)