

# Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

Several months ago I purchased a copy of "Legendary Theatre Organists" and gave it to the local library. I check it occasionally just to see how it circulates. Apparently it is very popular since it is seldom on the shelves and dates show it is in almost constant use.

I can't think of any better way to advertise ATOS than to have members present copies to their libraries; however, there should be *some* reference to ATOS either on the container or in the film itself.

There are many senior citizens in our town which may account for the popularity of the film, but I'm sure it would be equally popular in any library.

On another subject. During the past year, I have written to many ATOS members and replied to many of their letters. I received answers from about half of this correspondence. It seems to me that, since the organization is spread around the world, correspondence between members should be a very important part of membership. It is particularly annoying when correspondence to the officers is not answered. It would be nice if everyone made more of an effort to answer ATOS mail.

Sincerely,  
Robert V. Longfield  
Morro Bay, California

Dear Editor:

It was with great sadness that I received the news that 11 plus ranks of the Oriental Theatre organ had been stolen. I could only partially explain how emotionally attached I am to the organ itself. My parents Edna and Preston, had long and luminous careers in the Chicago area involving theatre organ. But I know personally that my father believed his career reached its zenith when he began his association with the Oriental Theatre and its organ. With the blessing of the B & K Management and much help from Ken Simpson, he was allowed to polish, refine, and hone an instrument which was already an epitome of what a theatre organ should truly sound like. This particular organ remained for the rest of my father's life, and through my mother's tenure there, the quintessential prototype for a theatre organ installation. So much for my sadness at this news of its ranks being decimated.

My sadness is deep — but my anger is endless also. To my friends and associates involved with furthering this wonderful art-form, I say to you there is a CANCER within the ranks of this organization. A criminal thief or thieves has seen fit to

steal outright, property which did not belong to them. This is the first CANCER. Subsequently, this criminal thief or thieves have seen fit already or will in the future, sell for monetary gain, or give away for future favors granted, stolen property which was not his or theirs to begin with.

The second part of this CANCER then, occurs when another person or persons obtain for their own purposes, a rank or ranks or pipes that have not properly been accounted for. Paid for with money or favors to this thief or thieves. Paid for without proper inquiry as to where or when these pipes came from, duly certifying to their past history. This person or persons are just as guilty and as much a criminal thief as the first parties involved. They have received stolen property without proper certification, and MUST be considered criminal thieves.

My emotions and feelings are very strong. I have instructed Mr. Bill Reiger that should he desire, I will gladly grant the use of my father's name on a mast-head reward fund for information leading to the arrest and conviction of said criminals.

I would also ask that anyone who has acquired individual ranks of pipes during the past 7 (?) years, come forward willingly and in good faith, certifying as to their past history and whereabouts. This act would certainly be taken as an act of good faith.

I am involved. I am dedicatedly and  
Sincerely yours,  
Barbara Sellers  
Palatine, Illinois

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.

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## • ERRATA •

Last issue in "For The Records": Two By George: HOT PIPES & MERRY CHRISTMAS. Prices should have read: \$20 each US and Canada, \$22 each UK, \$23 each Australia.

## \$10,000 REWARD

### CATOE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

**\$5,000** REWARD TO THE PERSON OR PERSONS WHO MAY WANT TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS WHO FURNISH INFORMATION LEADING TO THE RECOVERY OF THE NINE MISSING RANKS AND PERCUSSIONS OF THE ORIENTAL THEATRE WURLITZER ORGAN.

**\$5,000** REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST AND CONVICTION OF THE PERSON OR PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISAPPEARANCE OR THEFT OF THE ORIENTAL THEATRE WURLITZER ORGAN.

PLEASE CONTACT T.L. ROWELLS AT 312/346-9420