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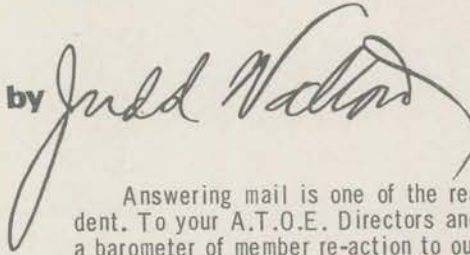
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We are pleased to report that as a result of our last column statement, and help from ads in *The American Organist* and *The Diapason*, our membership has now passed the 900 mark. This insures the continued success of A.T.O.E. and *Theatre Organ*. A.T.O.E. Membership is Four Dollars per year, and includes a subscription to *Theatre Organ*, for the four issues produced for that fiscal year. 1960 members will receive the four issues of Volume II, and 1961 members will receive the four issues of Volume III, etc. Membership subscriptions do not start with the "current issue", but are retroactive to the first issue of the year in which membership is paid.

## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by




Answering mail is one of the real problems encountered by your president. To your A.T.O.E. Directors and *THEATRE ORGAN* staff, the mail is a barometer of member re-action to our combined efforts. Since taking office, not a single day has passed without at least one letter waiting in the post-office box. On many days, the letters number a score or more! Should this flow of mail stop it would be a sure indication that interest in A.T.O.E. was dead, and it would then seem rather pointless to continue our efforts in its behalf.

However, such is NOT the case...and for this we are grateful to each person who takes a few minutes to write. Many letters contain only a check for dues, or perhaps a brief note. Some are long and full of news and unfulfilled desires....to own a theatre organ perhaps, or to have the opportunity to hear one again. Others are letters of appreciation for our official journal, or an inquiry on some technical matter, etc. Since *THEATRE ORGAN* has been mailed on schedule, letters of criticism have ceased entirely. (Surely we can't be doing THAT good a job!)

In the past, an honest endeavor has been made to answer each letter received, although we are quick to admit that we have not been entirely successful in this activity. As a matter of fact, we might as well face the issue squarely and admit that it has become almost impossible to keep up with the volume of mail now being received. Letters regarding membership or issues of *THEATRE ORGAN* are being handled by our secretary, and are kept current. Membership cards are being mailed promptly and, of course, *THEATRE ORGAN* is mailed by the staff the day it comes from the printer.

It is the mail dealing with other matters that we find ourselves unable to cope with. From these letters we are able to find news items of general interest, and some reach these pages. Regretably, other letters are in no way acknowledged. To each of you who may feel that your time and effort in writing was wasted, let me assure you that such is not the case. Your letters are carefully read, passed among the staff and eventually find their way back to the president's desk to be answered. Soon the pile of unanswered mail reaches the point of no return as it becomes necessary to pursue those matters which MUST be attended to in order to keep A.T.O.E. current in its business activities. Such matters as Chapter communications must be answered (even these have suffered lately), as well as the ever-constant flow of mail pertaining to *THEATRE ORGAN* articles.

In any event, we shall continue to do our best in this regard, and we sincerely urge you to continue to write. We need your letters, and who knows -- we may even get caught up and answer them! In the meantime, thanks for writing, and keep up the good work.

Response to the request for information on home installations (see *THEATRE ORGAN*, Vol. I, No. 3 & 4, the double issue, Page 4) has been exactly zero -- nothing -- blank!!! Surely there beats within the breast of at least ONE theatre organ owner enthusiast a heart full of ever-flowing with pride of ownership! We have had many excellent pictures sent in with letters of general context, but in not one case have we had enough information for a story. We don't have to have a full feature story such as the excellent coverage of the Loderhose "home" installation written for this issue by Ben Hall! (And our sincere thanks to you, Ben!). Just a few details, pictures, etc. will do. Let's try it once again, with feeling!

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Watch for Annual Meeting announcement in next issue!

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