

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER

By Esther Sweet
Secretary-Treasurer

The 20th quarterly meeting of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the A.T.O.E. was held Sunday, May 15, 1960, at the home-studio of Mr. & Mrs. Jay Quinby, Summit, N. J., from 2 to 6 P.M. It was estimated about 115 to 125 members and guests were present, although only 100 signed the guest register.

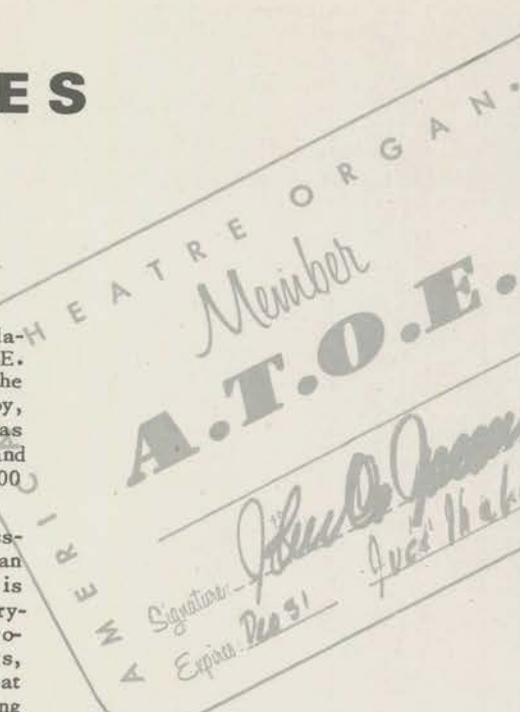
Mr. & Mrs. Quinby have most successfully combined home and organ into an organ lover's dream. The residence is a converted carriage house - with everything tastefully and thoughtfully provided for - including organ chambers, bar, indoor formal pool - and a great deal of space, more nearly resembling the usual habitat of a theatre organ. The day was a rare, perfect spring day - many spent as much time out-of-doors on the lawn, enjoying the afternoon's entertainment, as others did surveying and playing the organ.

The Quinby organ is a combination Moller, U. S., Odell, and Wurlitzer, with a 3 Manual and a 4 Manual consoles. The two large chambers are divided by a narrow passage way, which is the main entrance to the living room. It is with some trepidation that a non-organ visitor enters the abode of the Quinbys at all when someone is playing full organ. Our brief business meeting was held at about the half-way point of the afternoon. Routine business was discussed and the Program Chairman told of the details of the next meeting at Hershey, Pa. An invitation was extended by Dick Loderhose to a concert at his studio for Saturday, May 28th.

Commodore Quinby, co-owner of the Delta Queen, a Mississippi River Boat, at this point distributed folders describing the boat, its routes and facilities. The Delta Queen sounds so inviting, it was hard to resist the urge



Business portion of Delaware Valley meeting, ably conducted by Chairman Stanley Warzala.



to sign on immediately.

Many tried the organ during the afternoon - and all found it quite exceptional. Mr. & Mrs. Quinby were most gracious to our group. The bar was opened during the afternoon, and Mrs. Quinby prepared and served beautiful trays of canapes.

As we slowly and reluctantly took leave of the Quinby Organ Studio, we were treated to strains of the Delta Queen's calliope music, taped right at the boat on the Mississippi River. Our gathering for dinner at the New Hampshire House in Summit found everyone happily discussing the afternoon's events. Our many, many thanks to the Quinbys for their most kind hospitality.

NEW OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER

The Board of Directors are pleased to announce the formation of a New A.T.O.E. Chapter, the Ohio Valley Chapter. A letter received from Herbert C. Wottle on September 11, 1960 contained all the necessary information to grant the Charter, which included the list of officers as follows, Chairman, Herbert C. Wottle; Vice Chairman, Stann Todd; Secretary-treasurer, Joan A. Wottle. The new Chapter has an enrollment of twenty members, and have set their Annual Dues at \$2.00 per person per year. Present at the meeting were E. J. Quinby and Hugh Burdick, who lent their knowledge of A.T.O.E. and its operations to the group. Glenn Merriam served as Chairman pro-tem until the permanent officers were elected. We extend our heartiest welcome to the new Chapter and shall look forward to their activities in reports published in these pages. Congratulations to all who assisted in the organization work.

POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER

MEMBERSHIP. Our Chapter now has 77 members. as of October 15. Since then, several more memberships have come in.

BALTIMORE. Work is going forward on the 7-rank Wurlitzer in the State Theater and on the 30-rank Kimball in the Stanley. The thanks of the Chapter go to R. G. Pierce, who is working on the Kimball, and to Charlie McClelland who is doing the work on the Wurlitzer. Both men are putting in about four nights a week. How about giving them some help on these projects? We will all want to play these organs when they are finished, so anyone who can do so is asked to give Mr. Pierce or Mr. McClelland a call and offer to lend a hand.

MEETING. At least one of the Baltimore organs should be ready by the end of November, and I hope to be able to notify you of a definite date for our next meeting over there within a short time.

RADIO CITY. Several members of the Potomac Valley Chapter were guests of the Delaware Valley Chapter at its recent meeting in the Radio City Music Hall, and heard performances by Don DeWitt, Bill Floyd, Ashley Miller, Jack Ward, Dick Loderhose, Leonard McClain, Dottie McClain and others, on both the big organ in the Music Hall and on the smaller but excellent Wurlitzer in the recording studio upstairs. The group was invited by the management to attend the entire show, which was preceded by a 30-minute program played by Ray Bohr.

FREDERICK. Dick Kline informs me that the Wurlitzer in the Tivoli Theater is being overhauled and should be ready before too long. Bob White and Darrell Stuckey are helping on it. The Moeller in the Hood College Chapel has also been overhauled, and Bill Sprigg is anxious for the Chapter members to hear it. And for those of you who may not know it, Lem Keller has an excellent three-manual installation in his home in Frederick.

"HOMER KNOWLES NIGHT". Homer Knowles was a member who died last November 30 of leukemia. He was organist at the Greenway Restaurant in Glen Burnie, and formerly played the 40-rank Moeller at the Fox Theater in Atlanta. It has been proposed that a "Homer Knowles Night" be held on the anniversary of his death, and that the proceeds of the event, which would be held at the Greenway, be turned over to the Leukemia Fund.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS. Ad in the October 28, 1928, Sunday Star:

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John J. McAuliffe, Chairman
Potomac Valley Chapter, ATOE

NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER

The Summer Meeting of the Niagara Frontier Chapter was held on August 14, 1960 at the RKO Palace Theatre, Rochester, New York. The featured artist was Tom Grierson, playing the four manual, twenty rank Wurlitzer as he did back in the golden days. Attendance for the concert was 90.

For several months prior to this meeting, three Rochester members, Daniel O. Schultz, Lloyd E. Klos and Jess G. Littlefield, worked to get the instrument into tip-top condition. Over

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WANTED

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Theatre Organ for home use wanted. Will trade equity in house or income property. Allen C-4 considered. Stich, 46 Turrini Circle, Danville, California.

Fall, 1960

100 magnets had to be re-wound, tremulants had to be readjusted, chambers cleaned, console troubles climinated and pipes tuned. A total of 323 man hours of labor was spent at the theatre during this project.

The program began when Tom Grierson, rising from the pit, played the immortal "Hello, Hello, the RKO" just as he did years ago. The program of an hour-and-a-half duration ran the gamut from church hymns to modern light classics.

Following Mr. Grierson's program, other organists were invited to display their skills on the Wurlitzer. Among those giving it a try were David Teeter of Elmira and Dr. Edward Bobko of Olean who was featured organist at the concert in Shea's Roosevelt Theatre in Buffalo last January 31st.

For lunch, the members adjourned to the "Wishing Well", a nearby restaurant. A movie on the building of organs was shown. President Harry Radloff announced that several meetings are being planned for the Fall, with a Christmas Party at the Roosevelt Theatre in Buffalo in December.

(Editor's Note)

New officers for the Niagara Frontier Chapter for 1961 have been elected, according to news received from Charles W. Stein, secretary-treasurer. Elected for the coming year were; Myron Limburg, President; Heine Olandy, Vice-President; Joseph Thomas, Treasurer; Laura Thomas, Secretary; Louis Rosa, Daniel DuBois, and Charles W. Stein, Executive Committee. Welcome to the fold, and best wishes for a successful and enjoyable term of office.

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Photo from Massachusetts Chapter. Organ is Chuck Whitehead's 8 rank Wurlitzer. From left to right: Al Winslow, chairman; Bob Thompson, Secretary; Geo. Marshall, treasurer; and Chuck Whitehead, vice chairman.

Send your Chapter news to **THEATRE ORGAN**. Let others know what you are doing!

THE ORGAN PLAYER Edited by PHIL RABOIN

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