

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

NEW PUGET SOUND CHAPTER ORGANIZED.

On Tuesday evening, December 27, a number of A.T.O.E. members assembled at the Mt. Baker Theatre in Bellingham, Wash., and voted to form the Puget Sound Chapter.

Then Andy Crow at the console of the Wurlitzer presented a program in-



Andy Crow at console.

cluding, among others, these numbers: "Veradero," "Edelma," "Autumn Leaves", "Yours", "I've Got the World on a String", "My Happiness", "Love Is Here to Stay", "Granada", "Jingle Bells", and "White Christmas."

The Chapter members especially thank Fox-Evergreen and Leroy Kasher for the use of the theatre.



Chairman Bruce Jacobson and Secretary M. H. Strickland Jr., of Puget Sound Chapter.

LAND O'LAKES

A business session of the Land O'Lakes Chapter was held early in January in the home of Herbert Dunkley, in Minneapolis. However, because Herb has a fine collection of organ records and an unusual Artisan electronic theatre organ, the meeting was not all business!

the Hiser theatre in Bethesda until last fall. It has been completely reconditioned and installed by Bob White; with the assistance of Darrell Stuckey. Darrell was the featured organist at the January 22 meeting.

On the evening of December 10, the Potomac Valley Chapter held its first Baltimore meeting in the State Theatre, with an excellent turnout of members and friends. The program was opened by guest organist Warren Glock, of Baltimore. He was followed by members Jimmy Boyce and Darrell Stuckey. Volunteers then provided the music for the rest of the night.

Chairman McAuliffe expresses the Chapter's thanks to White, Stuckey, Boyce, and Charles McClelland for the many hours put into the job of reconditioning and tuning the State Theatre Wurlitzer, and to Manager Timmy Rosenberger and his assistants, who were on hand "until the last note was played, to take care of the lighting, etc., and to see that everything was done to make the meeting a success."

Manager Rosenberger, says McAuliffe, will provide time on any evening for an organ interlude.

POTOMAC VALLEY

A meeting was held on Sunday afternoon, January 22, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Hill, Silver Spring, Md. The Hills' organ, according to John J. McAuliffe, Chapter chairman, is the 25 Marr & Colton that was in

CONNECTICUT

On November 25, at 11:30 p.m., a group of about 100 specially invited organ enthusiasts gathered at the Allyn Theatre in Hartford for a concert

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CHAPTER CHAIRMEN AND SECRETARIES

Delaware Valley

Chairman - Richard Loderhose, 84-25 Radnor, Jamica, Long Island, N.Y.
Secretary - Don Reichert, 27 Alice Lane, Clark, New Jersey

Northern California

Chairman - Francis Aebi, 537 Brookside Dr., Richmond 10, Calif.
Secretary - Frank E. Bronson, 2545 Alameda St., Vallejo, Calif.

Potomac Valley

Chairman - J. J. McAuliffe, Rt. 1, Box 331, Oakton, Va.
Sec.-Treas. - Mrs. Louise Bartlett, P. O. Box 67, Oakton, Va.

Niagara Frontier

Chairman - Myron Limburg, 76 Dexter Terrace, Tonawanda, N.Y.
Secretary - Laura Thomas, 3534 Bowen Road, Lancaster, N.Y.

Mid-West

Chairman - Kay McAbee, High Road R-3, Lockport, Ill.
Secretary - John Seng, c/o Jack Gibbs, 7333 N. Bell Ave., Chicago 45, Ill.

Land O'Lakes

Chairman - Byron Carlson, 4132 Oakland Ave., Minneapolis 7, Minn.
Secretary - Donald R. Taft, 5309 Bernard Ave., N., Minneapolis 22, Minn.

Ohio Valley

Chairman - Herbert C. Wottle, 2846 Madison Road, Cincinnati 9, Ohio
Secretary - Joan A. Wottle (same address)

Dallas

Chairman - Walter Kuehne, 4106 South Better, Dallas, Texas
Secretary - E. W. Johnson Jr., 5436 Glenwick Lane, Dallas, Texas

Connecticut

Chairman - Allen R. Miller, 383 Forbes St., East Hartford 8, Conn.
Secretary - Joseph M. Tobin, 1565 Blvd., West Hartford, Conn.

Puget Sound

Chairman - Bruce R. Jacobson, 930 Indian St., Bellingham, Wash.
Secretary - M. H. Strickland Jr., P. O. Box 457, Bellingham, Wash.

Eastern Massachusetts

Chairman - Al Winslow, 1 Fairbanks Rd., Foxboro, Mass.
Secretary - Bob Thompson, 9 Gardner Rd., Norwood, Mass.

CHAPTER NEWS (continued)

and console party using the recently rebuilt Austin. Everett Bassett of Waterbury opened the program with a Paramount Newsreel pantomime. This was followed by 45 minutes of mood music. The organ performed beautifully, even to the low 16' D cipher, which soloed during one of the soft numbers. But Allen Miller and Joe Tobin headed for the chamber, and the cipher was eliminated in less than a minute!

Miller, who supervised and did most of the work on the organ, took over the bench at 12:20 a.m., and put the organ through its paces with quick registration changes and percussion effects. Several comments were heard on his arrangement of "Baubles, Bangles, and Beads", with its rhythmical triangle and xylophone glissandos, and the 8' tuba solo on "Mighty Lak a Rose."

George Fay, a local organist, played some of the real "oldies", and Fred Mitchell, of the Austin Organ Company, then started off with "I'm in the Mood for Love", and went on into "Whispering", "Laura", and "Sentimental Journey", in which he used every effect the organ had. He concluded with a medley of tunes, and "Tea for Two".

Barbara Williams, a young, charming organist, who insisted "I never played a theatre organ before in my life!" offered her version of "Dizzy Fingers," and sounded as though she had been born at the instrument. And several others tried out the organ before the evening was over. The general comment was "More!", and it is certain this organ will be heard again.

NIAGARA CHAPTER



Members of the Niagara Frontier Chapter having a "go" at the console of the Palace Wurlitzer, Rochester, New York, at their meeting there several months ago. Tom Grierson, the featured artist, is in the foreground talking to an interested group of admirers.

Winter, 1960-61

VISIT TO A CHRISTIE CINEMA ORGAN (continued)

the program with Dvorak's 'Humoresque.'

Members then followed, as listed: Vice President Norm Stinson (Fantasia in G Major); Rod Blackmore (special arrangements of three hymns); Secretary Clancy (Bach's "God's Time is the Best", and "Fugue in C", by Bach); Roy Williamson (Prelude and Fugue in D Minor - Bach); Peter Ellicott (Coppelia Ballet Music); Ken Jordon (La Paloma); and Ray Myers, who offered a number of selections including "Bird Songs at Eventide", "Roses of Picardy," and others.

The visit ended with an inspection of the pipe chambers, and photos were taken.

Secretary Clancy gives the history of the organ as follows: "In the year 1928, the owners of the King's Theatre, Gordon, N.S.W., Australia, installed the Christie Cinema Unit Organ, manufactured in England by Hill, Norman and Beard Ltd. The eight rank organ was played by many of the leading theatre organists until 1958, when television caused many theatres to sell their organs. It was then that the Church of St. Columba purchased the organ for about \$800.

"A member of the church, Noel Stokes, a telephone technician and amateur organ enthusiast, supervised removal and re-installation of the organ. No attempt was made to turn it into a church organ, and thus it sounds better in many ways in the church acoustics than it did in the theatre . . . Played in a cinema organ style, it sounds very well. Played as a straight organ, it sounds much better than a lot of standard church organs around Sydney."

Going briefly into some of Clancy's comments on the organ: "The open diapason rank is very full and satisfying, particularly useful for straight organ playing. The geigen diapason is a soft stop giving some delightful sounds with the swell box closed. The Violone is small scaled and has the rather nasal sound of Christie Strings, but combines well with other ranks. It is the softest pedal rank.

"The Bourdon-Tibia is powerful on the pedal 16 foot extension, the Tibia sounds delightful, and the temptation here is to use it too much. The Clarinet is a very useful reed, very smooth and even. The Vox-Humana has rather a 'bleating' tone and is rather disappointing.

"The Tuba had to be softened for the smaller hall. This removed some of the 'honking' sound, and it now forms a good addition for a climax, or can be used on Solo manual with 2", 2-2/3rd and 1-3/5th' to give a good full swell effect. Bird-whistle, boat-whistle, sirens, etc., were removed as they obviously would not be used in a church service. Tuned percussions

(chimes, chrysoglott, xylophone, tolling bell) were retained, as were the bass drum, snare drum and cymbals.

"Foot pistons vacated by effects," says Clancy, "have been used to provide: full organ reversible, double action; general cancel; soft organ, and solopedal coupler. Four pedal combination action pistons have been duplicated for left foot as well as originally for right foot.

"Solo and main tremulants are provided, plus individual tremulants for Tuba, Vox-Humana and Geigen Diapason. Ventilators are provided on all 61 note chests."

The next scheduled visit of the Society was to be to the Arcadia Theatre Organ, at Chatswood, N.S.W.

An Open Letter To Mel Doner, Former Editor of Our Official Journal.

Dear Mel,

It was with considerable alarm that we learned that you had suffered a second heart attack on February 20th. Eleanor wrote to us the very next day, and we have, of course, since answered her letter. Our thoughts and prayers were with you constantly and we are relieved to know that you are making steady progress in your recovery. We know that you enjoyed the recent Eddie Dunstetter broadcast, and that you are kidding the nurses, and this is good news.

Now that you are able to again enjoy the hobby that has meant so much to you, and which you have shared with so many through your service as Editor of our Official Journal, to say nothing of the many personal contacts you have made, we want to wish you the best of everything possible in the days, weeks and years ahead. Take good care of yourself, and remember that all of us who know you, as well as those of us who have shared your hobby through your efforts, extend our greetings to you.

Sincerely yours,

Judd Walton
President

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HOME ORGANIST

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