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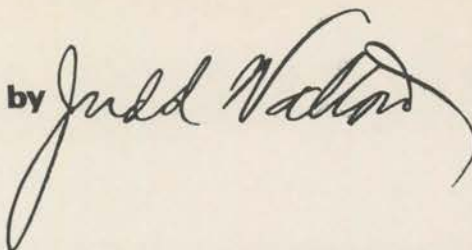
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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by


**I AM PREJUDICED!**

I have been accused by some as being prejudiced in favor of the Wurlitzer Theatre Organ over other makes. Others have more than implied that I am prejudiced in favor of Theatre Pipe Organs over electronic organs. The accusation is, of course, quite right!

However, the inference that it is wrong to be prejudiced is quite incorrect and indefensible. An accuser would obviously be a person who did not agree with me, and further, most likely would be a person who owned one of the instruments he felt I was prejudiced against.

It is wholly right to have opinions, assuming that they are made after consideration of the facts involved. Also not to be overlooked are the pure and simple likes and dislikes of the individual. Opposed to this is the person who insists that what he has is best ONLY because he has it! To be without opinions is no doubt humanly impossible, and having opinions, one must necessarily be prejudiced.

However, in admitting I am prejudiced I do not infer that I do not respect the opinions and prejudices of others. While I happen to like Wurlitzer Theatre Organs, I can readily understand why others may have dissimilar tastes. I can also understand how they find enjoyment from their particular situation.

How many times we have all heard it said that some particular organ is the world's biggest, or that it has the most pipes, or the greatest number of manuals, pistons, pedals, stops, and so on far into the night. Really, who cares? Why argue? If the point is important to the owner, it is one of his opinions.

By the above I do not mean that it is not desirable to debate certain matters in all earnestness. This is simply fellowship in action. I love to sit down on an evening with a group of organ bugs, and hash over points to ponder and wonder about, even if they involve some of my own opinions and prejudices. And often times, I am in the minority, and find myself drawn to the conclusion that what I thought was not so sure-fire - right after all. However, I will admit I am hard to budge -- it's not impossible, but quite difficult!

So, as I close this, my last column as your president, I do so with a plea to each and every person and group interested in organs as a hobby. Let us all remember that it's the hobby that's important - not your particular opinions on it! While it seems a little sad that we have to have divergent groups and organizations all trying to accomplish the same purpose, these are, nevertheless, the products of varied opinions and prejudices. Let us respect them for what they are trying to accomplish, rather than how they are trying to do it. Let us all try to work toward a common goal of fun, fellowship and enjoyment of our common interest. Yes, let's even bend our efforts toward getting together and consolidating our forces. As our directors have pointed out, A.T.O.E. is simply an organization of theatre organ enthusiasts -- anyone who desires to do so may take part, may serve or just sit. The more the merrier.

To the steady stream of visitors that have stopped by, it's been wonderful to have met you. To those who have not as yet done so, I hope that some day you can and that I will have a chance to meet you individually...one thing for sure, I will now have a lot more time to do it! To those who have helped me in my task as president in any way, by writing a letter, calling on the phone, or whatever, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks. It's been a lot of fun -- and very rewarding.

But I repeat, and most important of all, IT'S THE HOBBY THAT'S IMPORTANT!

1961

ANNUAL MEETING
RICHMOND,
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For details contact:

ERWIN YOUNG, Jr.
 Chairman of Arrangements

3825 Beatty Drive
 Alexandria, Virginia
 Phone: South 5-3550