

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

OHIO VALLEY

The Ohio Valley Chapter met in late March in Millville, at the Shady Nook Steak House, owned by Chapter vice chairman Stan Todd. A "pop" concert in Cincinnati at some future date was discussed. Noteworthy guests included E.J. Quinby, and Pat Gillick, well known in the area as a former theatre organist. After the meeting was adjourned, those present were entertained at Todd's 3-manual Hammond by John Strader, Glen Merriam, Herb Wottle and Bill Wayne.

NIAGARA FRONTIER

This Chapter's second 1961 meeting was held April 9 in Rochester, N.Y., at the R.K.O.-Palace Theatre, with two organists featured - Tom Grierson and his protege, Don Scott. The organ, a 4/20 Wurlitzer installed in 1928, has been consistently kept in A-1 condition by Daniel Schultz, since a restoration job last summer.

The April 9 concert was the result of popular demand by the members who wanted an encore performance by Tom Grierson, following his well-received effort last August. And they were well rewarded.

Following his work, Tom introduced Scott, a young fellow from Canandaigua, who has literally worshipped at the Grierson shrine for years. He played gay tunes which were popular in the Twenties and later, and his performance indicated that he will be heard from at future A.T.O.E. meetings.



The Niagara Chapter held an informal March meeting in the John Spalding home. The 66 members and guests included Mrs. David Marr, an honorary member, and widow of the late David Marr of Marr & Colton. Entertainment was provided by Dr. Edward Bebko, a theatre organist at Radio City, New York, in the 1930's, known professionally as Eddie Baker. Above, Dr. Bebko is seated at console, Mrs. Marr on his right. The Spalding organ is a 3/9 Marr & Colton.



A short business meeting was held, electing Irving Toner to the office of vice president. This was made necessary by the resignation of Myron Limburg as president, and the moving up to the top position of vice president Heino Olandt.

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

The Eastern Massachusetts Chapter's last fall concert was held in the Stoneham Town Hall, where there reposes the ex-WNAC 2/14 Wurlitzer. Al Winslow, local president, played two solid

hours of movie accompaniment liberally interspersed with song slides for a group of over 350 people. What is remarkable is that Winslow nearly severed his left arm below the elbow with a Skilsaw last July, and was told that he would never play again. He played in November with no sense of feeling in his left hand, and limited mobility, but has today improved to the point where after having some scar tissue removed, he has regained most of the feeling and action in his hand.

Eastern Massachusetts members' projects are now in various states of playing condition, says Brenton E. Tyler. Tyler himself recently moved from Waltham to Weston, Mass., and had to dismember his 3/7, a four-year labor of love, and move it. He hopes to soon start reassembly operations. Don Phipps' 4/20 Morton is being set up and wined. He is re-leathering the chests, all single rank, which is a big job. Chuck Whitehead's 2/8W (Codman Sq., Boston) is all set up and operating nicely. Len Alpert's 3/13 W (Leow's, Schenectady, N.Y.) is operating well. And a new member, Joe Lavecchia, recently purchased the WMEX 2/6 Wurlitzer for his home.

PUGET SOUND

The Spring meeting of the Puget Sound Chapter was held April 9 in the home of Howard Burr, in Seattle, Washington. Guest artist was Reginald Stone, staff organist at Radio Station CFAX in Victoria, B.C. Stone, who hails from the British Isles, where he used to play for the "silents", had some interesting experiences to relate.

T.O.S.A. NEWS

Word received from John Clancy and V.J. Arnold of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia indicates the start of a new semi-official mimeo sheet called THE VOX. The first issue just received features news notes, and writings by Alden Miller of Minneapolis and Lou Marder of Los Angeles.

A.T.O.E. members interested should write to V. Julian Arnold, Editor, 67 New Street, Brighton Beach, S 5, Melbourne, Australia. No U.S. subscription rates are quoted.

LAND O LAKES

At the March meeting of the Land O Lakes Chapter, members enjoyed tapes made at Riny Delzer's home earlier in the year, with Eddie Dunstedter at the Minnesota Theatre Organ.

The April meeting was held in the Minneapolis Arena, location of the sole surviving "Mighty Wurlitzer" still in use in its original location in the twin cities. It is a 2/7 organ that is a delight to hear. Says Don Taft, secretary, "It's worth the trip just to hear those post horns!"

POTOMAC VALLEY

A new member of the Potomac Valley Chapter is Robert B. Bruce, the owner of a 16-stop Estey reed organ, which he says gives surprisingly good results. Bruce has been interested in the organ since as a small boy in Iowa he used to watch the operation of a Smithplayer-organ in a local theatre.

He later attended Parsons College, in Fairfield, Iowa, as a science major. A theatre there had a two-manual Smith. Bruce got acquainted with the manager, and ended up playing daily before the shows. While at Parsons, he serviced the three-manual Austin on the campus.

While in the Navy, and stationed in Australia, he played organs in several of the theatres to his heart's content on Sundays, when no shows are given there.

The Potomac Valley Chapter had a pleasant and entertaining meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Young late in March. The occasion was the unveiling of Young's very fine installation of his seven-rank Wurlitzer from the Harrisburg Loew's Theatre. An outstanding program of arrangements was presented by Jimmy Boyce.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads are accepted at the rate of ten cents per word per issue. A ten percent discount allowed if remittance accompanies your order.

Head your ads: "WANTED", "SWAP" "FOR SALE", etc. Send your ad to: Theatre Organ, Adv. Mgr., 4438 Camden St. Oakland 19, Calif.

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No charge for your first ten words.

WANTED

ROTOGRAVURE NEWSPAPER sections going back to 1920, featuring theatre pipe organ installations in movie palaces, civic auditoriums, radio broadcasting studios, residences; also clippings from newspapers, magazines, catalogues, advertisements, encyclopedias, books, etc. on orchestral unit pipe organs and Hope-Jones history. Information on T.O. dispositions. Alden Miller, 3212 - 34th Avenue South, Minneapolis 6, Minn., U.S.A.

FOR SALE

CUSTOM MADE HI-FI LP Records. 10 inch LP at \$4.50 post free. Many rare European organs available and organists not now playing. Private and commercial records from 1926 onwards, many recorded in Theatres, Ballrooms 1950-60. Lo-Fi up to 1955 includes many rarities. Enquiries, swaps, to: - Derrick Marsh, 52 Hest Bank Lane, Hest Bank, Lancaster, England.

WURLITZER PIPES and percussions -- also some miscellaneous parts -- for full information, contact H.C. Wottle, 2846 Madison Road, Cincinnati 9, Ohio.

Spring, 1961

BAY AREA

Within the past two months Bay Area Organ Enthusiasts have had almost undreamed of opportunities to hear Theatre Organs in most of the prominent theatres. In San Francisco, both the Fox and the Paramount Theatres have recently had organ concerts. In Oakland, the Paramount Theatre has had several concerts. It is hoped that one day soon we may be able to again hear the long dormant San Francisco Orpheum Robert Morton, a 4 manual 28 rank of late vintage.

The purpose of this review is to recognize not the organists (this will be done in later editions) but the theatre officials who have made these events possible and successful! They have had the vision and foresight as well as the enthusiasm necessary to promote Theatre Organ concerts. To be perfectly frank, none of these concerts have been complete sell-outs. As a matter of fact, a few have barely made expenses. But, fortunately, most of them have been very successful, and we in A.T.O.E. extend to the staffs of these theatres our most sincere thanks. Without their complete cooperation, none of these wonderful events would have been possible.

Representing the San Francisco Fox Theatre are John Klee, Northern Calif-



Klee



Appel

ornia Division Supervisor, and Robert Apple, Managing Director. These two forwardthinking men are responsible for the excellent concert presentations made at the theatre by George Wright and Dave Quinlan with others planned for future dates. They have unquestionably led the field in theatre organ concerts in this area.

Gordon D. Stoddard, house manager

NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER PLANS TORONTO WEEK-END

A bulletin just received announces a meeting of the Chapter in Toronto where Quentin MacLean and Horace Lapp will be featured organists. Included in the plans are visits to Royal York Hotel which has a 5 manual, 110 Rank Casavant, the Odeon - Carlton Theatre's 19 Rank Hillgren-Lane organ and the Maple Leaf Gardens' 5 manual, 21 Rank Wurlitzer (mostly). The program starts at 8:30 Saturday, June 10th, and continues throughout the day, ending at the Maple Leaf Gardens. The following day, Sunday, the group will visit the Canadian Broadcasting Studio G 3

of the Paramount Theatre in Oakland, continued the theatre organ activity re-activated in San Francisco in the East Bay Area. He is an enthusiast, and has arranged for a number of performances at the theatre over the past year and a half.

Representing the R.K.O. Golden Gate Theatre is Mark Alling. In a recent conversation with the editor, Mr. Alling recounted a report given by his companies division manager for the Rochester, New York, area, who stated that reception to the Tom Grierson concerts has been magnificent, and that most of the house managers present were understandably disappointed in that the organs formerly



Alling

in their theatres had been removed, thus negating the possibility of this activity. Mr. Alling is to be complimented for leading the way in his company in the re-activation of interest in the Theatre Organ.

Earl Long is District Manager for A.B.C. - Paramount Theatre, San Francisco, Calif. The recently held concert in the Paramount Theatre was under his sponsorship, and made available the 1921 Style 285 Wurlitzer for the first time in over 20 years. A complete report of this affair will be soon forthcoming.

Gentlemen, we salute you! All too often forgotten in the blaze of the spotlight on the console, these men deserve the respect and appreciation of every A.T.O.E. member. It is our sincere hope that the example set may be emulated throughout the country by enterprising theatre managers. Our best wishes to the continued success of these theatre concerts and to each of those who are behind the scenes doing so much of the work!

manual 14 rank Legge Theatre Organ.

From the announcement, this will be a well planned meeting worthy of the support of every A.T.O.E. member who can attend. Contact the Chapter Secretary, Mrs. Laura Thomas, 3534 Bowen Road, Lancaster, New York, for details and reservations.

NOTE

Omitted from the Sequoia Records advertisement in the Winter 1960-61 issue of THEATRE ORGAN was the price of the Larry Vannucci record. This record is priced at \$3.98 monaural, \$4.98 stereo. Write to Studio Records, 2032 Broadway, Oakland, Calif., to order record. On California orders, include 4% sales tax.



Stoddard