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HOW TO JOIN A.T.O.E.

any person interested in . . . preserving the tradition of the Theatre Organ and furthering the understanding of the instrument and its music through the exchange of information . . . is invited to membership. Make your check payable to A.T.O.E., and mail to: P.O. Box 248, Alameda, California. Dues \$4.00.

theatre organ

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF THEATRE ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS

OUR NEW EDITOR

George Thompson, new editor of THEATRE ORGAN, is about the most avid pipe organ enthusiast (Organ-Nut) imaginable, and a truly fine person. Born in Fresno, California, sometime prior to World War I, he completed his schooling there before moving to San Jose, and his first full-fledged job. It was while working as an apprentice stagehand at various theatres, that he claims to be first exposed to and immediately falling in love with the Theatre Pipe Organ. Our suspicion is that it happened back in Fresno much earlier in his life.

The next move was to Northern California, where he learned the trade of motion picture projectionist working in Redding, Red Bluff and Sacramento, during the days just prior to the advent of sound pictures. This was the era that saw theatre organs used for cueing silent pictures, playing community sings and solo spots, as well as accompanying the week-end 'vodvil' shows that played the smaller towns.

In the early thirties, the bright lights of San Francisco beckoned, and so it was off to the big city for George during the golden days of Organ Presentations, Fanchon & Marco, RKO and other great vaudeville shows, and...the beginning of sound pictures.

During the middle 30's George had the itch to go into business for himself, and entered into partnerships with several independent operators. At the outset of World War II, George and the U.S. Navy entered into a form of 'partnership' during which time he traveled overseas to various locations, thereby broadening his outlook on life.

When this partnership was dissolved, George entered business for himself as owner/operator of a small theatre in Greenfield, California. This was a moderately successful venture until the one-eyed monster known as television began to take its toll of small theatre operators. The next move was to Salinas, California, where his love for music and organs in particular found him working as a salesman for a piano and electronic (ugh) organ dealer. He is now the manager of this dealership and, it would seem, a permanent resident of this California valley town.

George is one of the original Charter members of ATOE, and the proud possessor of a late model 6 rank WurliTzer, Opus No. 1900, ex Amazon Theatre, San Francisco and a Watsonville church, where it had two ranks, Dulciana and Oboe Horn added.

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A.T.O.E. Membership - \$4.00 per year includes subscription to THEATRE ORGAN.

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- 1960 Fanny Wurlitzer
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